

Philippine rebel leader escapes

MANILA (AP) — The jailed commander of the Communist rebel army escaped Saturday with his wife, slipping away from a birthday party for his former stockade commandant while the current warden dozed in his office, officials said. Philippine constabulary spokesman Crescencio Marañon said the military flashed a nationwide alarm and sealed off approaches to Manila after Romulo Kintanar and his wife Gloria fled about 3 p.m. (7:00 GMT) from the home of Major Roberto Comilang. Kintanar and his wife were arrested last March in Manila along with Rafael Baylosis, alleged secretary-general of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines. Marañon told reporters an investigation was under way because Kintanar was a "maximum security prisoner" who should not have been allowed to leave the prison and should not have been left without guard outside his cell. Comilang said he had invited Kintanar and other prisoners to his birthday party at his home at Camp Crame, which includes the constabulary headquarters and the stockade. Pantaleon Dumlao, senior officer on duty Saturday at Camp Crame, said in a report that Kintanar was released from his cell about noon and escorted to Comilang's home for the party.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Cheysson: Israel will have to negotiate

CAIRO (R) — Israel will have to negotiate with Palestinians and other parties to the Middle East conflict, European Economic Community (EEC) Commissioner Claude Cheysson said Saturday. Neither Israelis nor Palestinians "should try to impose on the other what it would not accept for itself," he told a news conference after talks with Egyptian ministers. Cheysson said he felt the Israelis would have to accept negotiations with the Palestinians and other parties concerned with foreign governments aiding and guaranteeing a conference. Asked whether Israel would start talks while Yitzhak Shamir, who opposes an international conference, was prime minister, Cheysson said many Israelis wondered whether it was worth paying the price of continuing to occupy the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Walesa says Poles are 'fed up'

PARIS (AP) — Polish Solidarity leader Lech Walesa said his countrymen were "fed up" and that if the government did not allow greater political pluralism their frustration was going to "explode." Walesa made the remarks in an interview published Saturday in the Conservative French daily Le Figaro. "We are all tired. We must quickly find a solution. People are fed up and things are going to explode. I am worried. One day before long, if nothing is done, I will no longer be able to say to the people, 'be patient,'" he said. "The people will take to the street and break everything. Especially the youth. Young people treat me like an old man and I understand them," he said. On Friday, police fought young demonstrators throughout Poland with batons, tear-gas and water cannons. Tens of thousands of people rallied to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the rebirth of the Polish state (see page 8).

34 killed in Colombian rebel attack

BOGOTA (AP) — About 200 leftist guerrillas hurled bombs and fired automatic weapons at a northern mining town and its military base, and a provincial governor said Saturday that 34 people were killed and 31 wounded. The guerrillas threw the bombs at the telephone company, town hall and a crowded square Friday night in Segovia, according to Antioquia Governor Antonio Roldan Betancur, who described the assault in an interview with Caracol Radio. The town is 290 kilometres northwest of Bogota. "There has never been an attack so bloody and so cruel, especially directed against the civilian population," Betancur said. It was the deadliest guerrilla attack in Colombia since Aug. 23, when 42 people were killed — 12 civilians, 12 police and military and 18 guerrillas — in a raid in the town of Saiza, 350 kilometres north of Bogota.

Shamir promises to change Jewish law

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir promised four religious political parties his Likud bloc would change a crucial law determining who classifies as Jewish in Israel, if the parties join his government. The leader of the hardline Likud bloc made the pledge Friday, despite vocal opposition by Jewish leaders abroad who object to the so-called "who's a Jew" amendment and say it would divide the Jewish people. "Prime Minister Shamir told the religious parties he is sure he can pass the law within three months of the new government," said Shamir's spokesman Yossi Achmeir. "It's not ideal, but the silent majority (of Jews abroad) will accept it with understanding," Achmeir said.

Egypt denies tensions with Sudan

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid denied Saturday reports of increasing tensions with Sudan over the activities in Cairo of ousted Sudanese leader Jafar Numeiri. "There is no rise in tension," Abdul Meguid told a news conference. He and other Egyptian leaders declined further comment. The London newspaper Ashraf Al Awsat quoted an "authorised source" in Khartoum as saying Sudan had frozen ministerial contacts with Egypt because of Numeiri.

Salvador rebels to call truce

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Leftist rebels have said they would call a truce for the Organisation of American States (OAS) meeting opening here Monday, hours after battling government troops on the outskirts of the capital. Security had been a major concern following an increase in guerrilla violence here, including the rocketing last Saturday of the hotel where OAS general assembly sessions will be held. A massive security operation involving thousands of troops has turned San Salvador into an armed camp. Combat patrols trudge through the shims around the Sheraton, columns of armoured cars cruise the streets and there are random checkpoints throughout the city.

Swiss agree to release Marcos files

BERNE (R) — Switzerland has agreed to give the United States the records of some financial transactions made by deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his family for use in a fraud and racketeering case against them. Justice Ministry spokesman Joerg Kistler said Saturday that the ministry had agreed to the request after the United States requested the files under a judicial assistance treaty. Marcos' lawyers have the right to appeal the decision in the Swiss supreme court.

Pakistani court orders use of ID cards

LAHORE (AP) — The supreme court Saturday ordered that Pakistani voters will have to produce state identity cards in order to cast their ballots in Nov. 16 and 19 general elections. It came as an injunction from the 12-member bench, suspending a high court ruling Tuesday that threw out the ID card requirement after it was challenged by the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of Benazir Bhutto. The PPP claimed a large segment of Pakistan's 48-million eligible voters did not have the cards, especially women who refuse to be photographed according to tradition.

Soviet shuttle launch set for Tuesday

MOSCOW (AP) — The maiden launch of the Soviet space shuttle, already scrubbed once because of a technical mishap in the final minute of countdown, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, the TASS news agency announced Saturday. "The cause of the delay has now been eliminated and the Energia (booster rocket) system with the Buran orbiter is undergoing pre-launch preparations," TASS reported. "Lift-off has been scheduled for 6:00 Moscow time (03:00 GMT) Nov. 15," the agency said.

Soviets stage nuclear test

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union Saturday staged an underground nuclear test with a yield of up to 20 kilotons with a view to improving Soviet military technology, the news agency TASS reported. The test explosion occurred at 6:30 a.m. Moscow time (03:30 GMT) at the Semipalatinsk proving grounds the steps of Kazakhstan in Soviet Central Asia, TASS said. "The goal of the testing was upgrading military technology," TASS said, without providing additional details.



His Majesty King Hussein is briefed on the facilities of the new radio station which His Majesty inaugurated Saturday (Petra photo)

New radio station goes on the air

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday formally opened a new broadcasting station at Kharraneh, east of Amman, and in a speech on the occasion expressed hope that the new facility would serve as a source of information to the world about Jordan's achievements in the economic and social fields.

The new transmission station has been set up to convey Jordan's voice to the outside world and to help bolster the Kingdom's ties with Jordanian expatriates and boost its relations with the rest of the Arab World, the King said in the speech, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Expressing delight at the opening of the station, the King said: "I address you from a new Jordanian forum which we have set up to convey the voice of Jordan to the world, calling for continued dialogue and understanding, and reflecting the Kingdom's true image."

"I am delighted also to recall a similar event 30 years ago when I opened the old transmission station, which has since been replaced by Jordan's voice forcefully conveying truth and facts in a balanced manner... amid a turbulent world."

The Hashemite Broadcasting Station has been progressing steadily in a clear course conveying to the Arab World Jordan's stance and views through news, objective programmes and commentary, King Hussein added.

He said Radio Jordan had been all along totally committed to Arab causes and served as a

(Continued on page 2)

King, Mubarak exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday telephoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and exchanged views with him on boosting joint Arab action, new developments in the international arena and bilateral relations.

Rafsanjani: No peace means war

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani said Saturday that the current situation of "no war, no peace" in the Gulf was not acceptable and without peace the fighting could resume, Tehran radio reported.

Also Saturday, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported that Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said Iraq was ready to give the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) a complete list of Iranian prisoners of war (PoWs) if Iran release of similar list.

Rafsanjani, also acting commander of the armed forces, was quoted as saying: "We must either achieve peace or return to war. The present situation is unacceptable."

The third round of peace talks since the United Nations brokered ceasefire went into effect Aug. 20 ended Friday with no significant progress in consolidating the truce.

Rafsanjani also contended that Iraq was responsible for the deadlock in the Geneva talks, according to the radio report monitored in Nicosia.

He urged the military and paramilitary forces which fought in the war with Iraq, to be prepared

(Continued on page 2)

King urges collective effort towards economic reform

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Economics Correspondent

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday described the present economic situation in Jordan as "a passing cloud" and

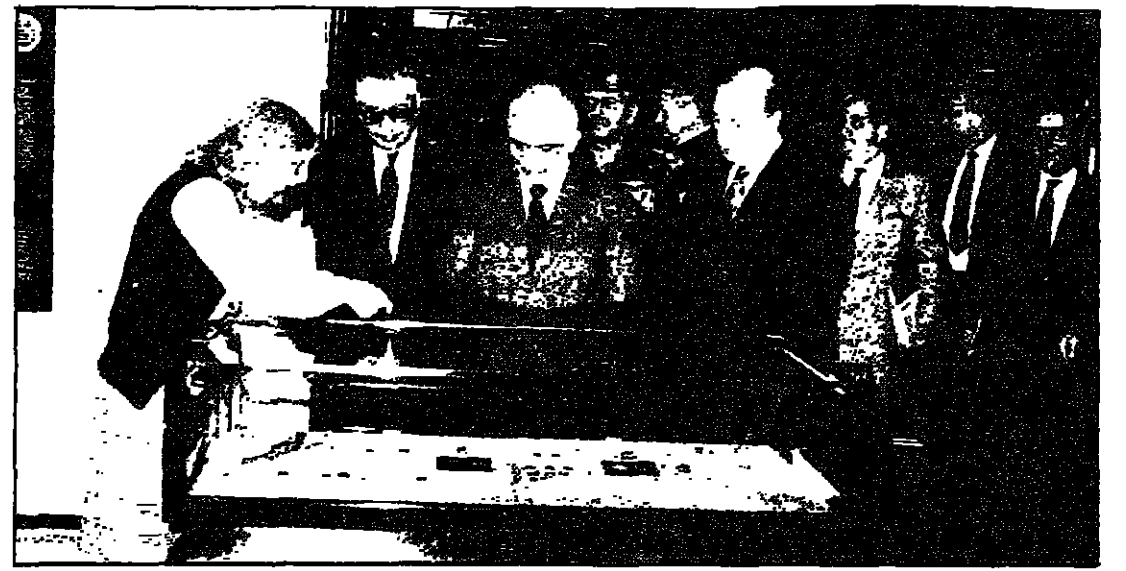
called for a collective national effort to support government measures for economic reform.

In a speech he delivered at the opening of a coins museum at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), the King expressed confidence that Jordan was able to overcome the present hardships and called on citizens to refrain from the consumption of luxury products and to take part in the corrective drive.

The King noted that the present economic difficulties required "a collective long-term effort," pointing out that recent economic measures "are not a temporary government policy." He stressed that the reform and adjustment process "must continue even after the passing of the cloud."

The King was referring to monetary and financial measures that led the government to adopt a series of policies including adjusting the Jordan dinar's exchange rate, tightening foreign exchange regulations, banning imports of luxury items and increasing tariffs on others.

"The Jordanian society is capable of adjustment and reform due to its socio-economic system



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday inspects a coins museum which he opened at the Central Bank of Jordan (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

that enables it to absorb problems that it faces," the King told bankers and businessmen gathered at the Central Bank of Jordan.

"We are today at the threshold of a new national course that

seeks to correct many tendencies in our society and economy and which depends on an attitude that is capable of understanding the facts of life and the new realities," the King said.

He underlined the need to "be aware on the dangers of continuing to drain and consume our resources at a level that exceeds

(Continued on page 2)

Crown Prince outlines framework to eliminate illiteracy among Muslims

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday called on the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) to come up with a well defined and comprehensive plan for development in order to eradicate illiteracy in the Islamic World before the end of this century.

The Crown Prince was addressing the third conference of ISESCO, held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, which opened at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman. The gathering is attended by representatives of 37 Islamic states and numerous Arab, Islamic and international organisations.

Crown Prince Hassan, who was delivering the speech on behalf of King Hussein, said development rarely succeeds in illiterate societies, "for such societies are unable to understand the aims of development and deal with mod-

ern technology."

Prince Hassan pointed out that some Islamic countries had made outstanding "qualitative and quantitative strides" in the area of education and "100 per cent, 80 per cent and 40 per cent of those eligible for schooling are enrolled in elementary, secondary and higher education respectively."

Prince Hassan said a number of other Islamic countries, however, "are still nowhere near such percentages, particularly with regard to females eligible for schooling of whom only 50 per cent are enrolled in elementary education, a much lower percentage of 20 per cent in secondary education, and regrettably less than two per cent in higher education."

Following are excerpts from the Crown Prince's speech:

Working towards deepening the values of Islamic education, science, and culture requires working out a comprehensive plan that takes the following points into consideration:

1. The existence of Islamic, regional, and national institutions which have similar aims but varying abilities. It is high time the ability, performance, and competence of these institutions were assessed. An attempt at coordination and establishing channels of communication

among them must take place with the aim of arriving at a work plan which is without repetition and duplication, and is also cost effective.

We should keep in mind that a

(Continued on page 2)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday addresses the opening session of the third conference of the Islamic Scientific, Educational, Social and Cultural Organisation (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Israelis tighten siege of W. Bank, Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army closed the occupied territories, confined 680,000 Palestinians to their homes, cut phone lines and made scores of arrests Saturday in what appeared an attempt to quash protests coinciding with a meeting of Palestinian leaders.

At least two Palestinians were shot and wounded in the occupied Gaza Strip, hospital officials said.

Unusually large number of soldiers armed with tear-gas grenade launchers and rifles kept a tight check on Palestinians' movements as they patrolled the alleys

of Arab Jerusalem and the West Bank towns Bethlehem and Ramallah, an AP photographer and reporter said.

The army turned back Palestinian cars bound for Jerusalem. In Bethlehem, the troops checked residents' Israeli-issued identity papers and ordered some to return to their homes, the reporter said.

A military helicopter and small airplane circled above the city while soldiers on the ground seized cans of spray paint from stores so they could paint over nationalist slogans scrawled on walls, a reporter said.

A curfew imposed on residents of the Gaza Strip Friday night would remain in effect until further notice, the army said.

Palestinians in the occupied territories anxiously awaited the opening of the Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Algiers later Saturday.

Israeli troops also imposed curfews on the West Bank towns of Tulkarem and Qalqilya, Shuwaykah and Huwwarah villages and the Balata refugee camp. Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, was declared a closed military area.

Palestinian journalists reported

that many phone lines were cut in the West Bank to prevent contact with the press.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij said most phone lines in his town were cut. "The situation so far is quiet, but very tense. There is a heavy security presence, much heavier than usual," he told Reuters.

"The PNC meeting is a very important one and the people here are looking towards Algiers to see what resolutions will be taken and we hope the resolutions will help to begin the peace process," Freij said.

PNC opens with call for balanced U.S. policy

From Najwa Najjar
in Algiers
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The 19th session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) opened here Saturday evening with the focus of the Palestinian leaders on a new strategy for Middle East peace and with a call by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for an even-handed American approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), urged American President-elect George Bush to reconsider the U.S. policy in the Middle East on the basis of right and justice.

"I hope Mr. Bush will pursue a new policy, not just a policy on behalf of Israel," Arafat told the gathering. "We are not asking for the impossible, only for the homeland we were expelled from."

The PLO leader pledged to continue the struggle against Israel by political as well as military means. "We say a rifle in one hand, a stone in one hand... but we say at the same time an olive branch, to achieve a genuine peace... a Palestinian people, which we will impose on this Palestinian land," he said.

"It is logical that 130 members of the United Nations support our cause and Israel and the United States vote against," he asked.

Earlier, PNC Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hameed Al Sayeh opened the council session and declared a minute of silence in memory of assassinated Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir and the Palestinians killed in the 11-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

As the PNC session got under way in a heavily-guarded conference centre 25 kilometres west of Algiers, it became apparent that there was a

heavy debate going on among major factions of the PLO over the final political declaration the council is expected to issue Monday or Tuesday.

Sources close to the factions attending the PNC, individuals who attended closed-door sessions and analysts noted the various differences on each of the proposed drafts.

The declaration of independence for the occupied territories has been endorsed by all factions, but the main difference centred on U.N. Resolution 181. Some stated that 181 should serve as a legal basis for the declaration of an independent state while others wanted an additional reference to a historical right for future generations to create a Palestinian state on all of Palestine.

Others argued that acceptance of 181 will lead more Palestinians into diaspora and its acceptance is a "great injustice" to the Palestinian people since the PLO has not been guaran-

teed anything in return. Moreover, they argue that the intifada is reaping gains.

Nevertheless, all factions have endorsed the declaration which will be announced on Nov. 15. The 22-page declaration, phrased by the well-known writer Mahmoud Darwish, discusses the history and issues of the Palestinian cause until 1948 — with particular attention given to the 1947 partition plan and U.N. Resolution 181.

Hours before the meeting opened Palestinian leaders were also divided over aspects of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

Arafat has said he wants the PNC meeting to endorse Resolution 242 as a basis for settlement with Israel.

But the leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine reject the idea.

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Riyadh, Peking establish first permanent ties

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia and China have agreed to open commercial offices in each other's capitals, the first permanent representation between Riyadh and Peking.

The Chinese embassy in Washington and Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said an agreement was signed Friday by the countries' ambassadors to the United States, Han Xu and Prince Bandar bin Sultan.

"In the desire to develop the commercial and economic relations that have existed for a long time between the two people...

the governments have decided to set up commercial representative offices in their two capitals," SPA said Saturday.

Since the 1930s, when Saudi Arabia broke off relations with the Soviet Union, the kingdom has had no official representation in Eastern bloc countries or China.

Saudi Arabia and Bahrain are the only Arab countries to have no diplomatic relations with either Moscow or Peking.

The Soviet Union and China have both courted the kingdom in the last few years, sending officials on visits despite Riyadh's firm ties with the United States.

One U.S. analyst said recently that China had increased the number of its Muslims allowed to make the annual pilgrimage to Mecca to between 3,000 and 4,000.

Diplomats said Saudi Arabia sought to extend its relations

beyond the United States because of Washington's support for Israel and the refusal of Congress to agree to sell Riyadh arms.

The kingdom confirmed last month that it bought medium-range missiles from Peking, a move which took Washington by surprise.

Prince Bandar visited Peking last month, raising speculation that the countries would establish diplomatic relations. Diplomats said such a move did not seem likely in the immediate future because of Riyadh's close ties with Taiwan.

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King calls for collective effort towards economic reform

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our national product."

The King said: "I address you today while Jordan is confronting financial challenges... you surely are aware that this is not the first time the country faces such challenges and that Jordan is used to overcoming difficulties which strengthen its resolve and its ability to adjust and take initiative."

The King said the current economic situation "reminds us of Jordan's difficult formula of land and population — the land with its limited resources and the people with the high population growth — which results in exhausting demands on the state."

He said Jordan believed in the principle of encouraging private enterprise and a free economy and had exerted all efforts to invest its natural resources to create the biggest number of job opportunities and to distribute the gains of development on all areas.

Describing the course of Jordan's development, the King said the process was a continuous movement that adjusts itself with new developments and corrects its direction and methodology, whenever there is a need, in order to catch up with contemporary changes.

He said it was time to reconsider "some of the socio-economic concepts that are out of tune with the present reality or establish developmental phase, within the foreseeable time span... which requires a comprehensive structural change."

He said the problem of unemployment should not be looked at from the economic angle and its relationship to the rate of growth alone. Rather, "we must take all the elements affecting it into consideration, because they are structural and related to the lack of balance between the supply and demand for manpower, as well as it being linked to the mistaken social outlook on professions," he said. "On this basis, the government has taken the initiative to handle this problem through developing its education system and correcting the education process to match our developmental needs."

The King said that consumerism had created an imbalance in the economy and that the government had taken steps to tackle the problem through economic, financial and monetary measures and policies aimed at increasing self-reliance and strengthening the local productive structure and narrowing the gap between imports and exports.

He said the government had also embarked on a process to change consumers' attitude and reducing government spending, in addition to depending on the private sector to bring in revenues and investments.

On the administrative level, the King said the government was working to solve the problem by linking national institutions together in a way that is conducive to their activities and by "achieving centralising planning and decentralising execution in all sectors of development and administration in the Kingdom... and by choosing competent administrators in areas that correspond with their capabilities, in addition to modernising administrative and financial legislation and exerting a studies effort in the area of regional and sectoral training and planning."

"What is required from us is to

become all, in our different capacities, a part and parcel of the reform operation... to interact with it, accept as an inevitability that is imposed by reality and the nature of the present phase and future requirements."

The King concluded his speech, broadcast live on the radio, by expressing appreciation and thanks to the Central Bank of Jordan for its efforts and the high efficiency of its staff and their dedication at work, especially in their recent effort to confront the monetary difficulties.

Following the King's speech, Central Bank Governor Hussein Qasem delivered a statement reviewing Jordan's development and economic indicators since 1952. He said the Kingdom's achievements under the King's leadership had given hope and deepened confidence in the country's ability to overcome difficulties and obstacles.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Council Chairman Hassan Asaf, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Thouran Hindawi thanked His Majesty for his patronage of the conference. "In Al Hussein's Amman, Arab unity was reached only yesterday, and today we see Islamic unity here, all this is a result of the wise Jordanian Hashemite leadership," Hindawi said.

He welcomed the participants in the conference to Jordan and thanked Prince Hassan for his patronage of the conference.

The head of the Executive Council of ISESCO, Ahmad Ibn Hamad Al Othaimin, also thanked King Hussein and the Crown Prince for their patronage of the conference.

Othaimin referred to the achievements of ISESCO over the past three years and said he hoped that plans for the coming three years "will strengthen the Islamic identity."

He also expressed his "surprise over some countries' lax attitude towards paying their pledges to ISESCO" at a time where all efforts should give priority to joint Islamic work.

World Muslim countries have shown interest in science and technology. Successive summit conferences emphasised this point and set up ministerial committees to support the idea of scientific and technological cooperation which has given rise to a number of institutions such as the organisations whose achievements we are celebrating today, the Islamic Institution for Science, Technology and Development, the Islamic Academy of Science, and other specialised institutions. Yet we find many of our states without scientific and technological policies and strategies, and even those countries that have such institutions do not have enough infrastructure. They still

need to exert considerable effort to benefit from the experience of others. Some sectors of society are still to be convinced that they should adopt and accept science, although Islam respects reason and honours learning. In fact no heavenly Book mentioned reason more than the Koran did.

We are all invited to harness our entire intellectual, scientific and technical capacities for the service of development in our countries for we as Muslims, can play a role and shoulder responsibility towards our peoples and towards other nations.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

N. Yemen's congress opens 4th session

SANAA (R) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh opened the fourth session of North Yemen's general people's congress Saturday, diplomats said. About 1,000 delegates representing 24,000 members are attending the four-day session of the congress, a mass political organisation which has met every two years since 1982. North Yemen began commercial oil exports last year and elected a new parliament this year. Diplomats said a document to be issued at the end of the congress would guide the government in its foreign and domestic policy.

Iraq frees Swedish businessman

STOCKHOLM (R) — Iraqi Vice-President Taha Ma'ruf said Saturday his government had released a Swedish businessman jailed for life in Baghdad. The businessman, Wolfgang Granlund, was arrested in January last year and convicted of espionage and currency violations. "I have the pleasure to announce that Mr. Granlund... has been released and handed over to the Swedish embassy in Baghdad," Ma'ruf said in a statement just before ending a three-day working visit. He said Granlund was granted a special amnesty by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

'Lebanese Forces' press-gangs Indians

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's rightist militiamen are press-ganging Indian nationals in east Beirut to fill sandbags and build barricades along their front lines, diplomats said Friday. They said the Lebanese Forces militia had forced about 200 Indians over the past year to work for it for free in different parts of the country. A militia spokesman denied the charge, but one diplomat told Reuters: "Most of them (the Indians) disappear for weeks, then come back. They do the dirty job for the militiamen for free."

Bomb explodes in front of Novosti office

BEIRUT (R) — A bomb thrown from a passing car exploded in front of the Soviet Novosti news agency building in the Lebanese capital, police said Saturday. No one was injured in the explosion which shattered glass in nearby buildings and damaged parked cars, they said. The five-kilogramme bomb was thrown from a car being driven past the 10 storey building in west Beirut late Friday night. Novosti employees refused to comment.

ICRC asked to try to meet Lahd assailant

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's Foreign Ministry Saturday asked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to request a meeting with the woman that shot and wounded the commander of a pro-Israeli militia in South Lebanon. The ministry also said Lebanon's ambassador to the United Nations, Rashid Fakhroury, was asked to "seek help from international circles to exert pressure on Israel to treat Soha Fawaz Bishara in accordance with the Geneva conventions."

PNC session opens in Algiers

(Continued from page 1)

Arafat said after the preliminary talks that "we are still talking about 242."

He did not elaborate.

Arafat reminded reporters that Palestinian national rights were already enshrined in the General Assembly's Resolution 3236 of 1974, which has played an increasingly prominent part in Palestinian statements over the past few weeks.

This document "reaffirms the inalienable rights of Palestinian people

in Palestine... to self-determination... national independence and sovereignty."

Arafat has been holding his cards close to his chest in the run-up to the meeting of the PNC, refusing to say how he wants the independence negotiations to be phrased and what he wants to say in the parallel political statement.

"I cannot mention this as it would not be democratic. We are putting options to the PNC they can choose what they like," he told reporters Saturday.

New radio goes on the air

(Continued from page 1)

Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

The medium-wave transmitter with 1,000-kilowatt power covers the Gulf region, Iraq, North Africa at night while the long-wave transmitter, which has 1,200-kilowatt power, provides local coverage and areas around Jordan day and night.

Following King Hussein's speech, Information Minister Hani Al Khasawneh delivered an address welcoming the King saying that "the achievements are attributed to the will of the sons of your sincere Jordanian Arab people who transformed, under your leadership, to an honourable model."

The achievements covered every aspect of life in a short time, he said, and Jordan's "development experience became an example and a source of pride for every Jordanian citizen."

The new station, Khasawneh pledged, "will fulfil its role in the same spirit and determination you expect it to be." He added that the station would stress the importance of upholding virtues, religion and heritage, and to fight extravagance and luxurious life.

He also pledged that the station would convey a genuine message based on truth and responsibility and that it would sincerely relay the nation's culture in the fields of literature and music.

He also said that the station would create an amicable and delightful atmosphere in all that would be broadcast.

The radio station's director also delivered a speech welcoming the King and said the station "is designed to serve the Jordanian citizen inside and outside the homeland, to link the expatriates to their homeland, and to convey the voice of Jordan — the voice of justice, of the true word, and of the noble position — in various parts of the world."

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oaseen, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed bin Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid bin Shaker, ministers, senior civilian and military officials, the Swiss ambassador in Amman, and a number of invited guests.

Iran tempers isolation policy

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Mousavi indicated Friday the Islamic republic was moderating its isolationist stance in favour of a more pragmatic foreign policy.

In an interview broadcast on state-run television one day after Iran restored relations with Britain, Mousavi said: "Whereas our interests demand, we will restore relations."

"As with any other country, Iran's relations with other countries are based on self-interest," he said in the broadcast, monitored in Nicosia.

Britain and Iran agreed in Vienna Wednesday to gradually normalise relations, building up to an exchange of ambassadors in the next six months. Iran had frequently denounced Britain as an enemy during the year-long rift.

In recent months Tehran also has restored relations with France, again after a year's break, and with Canada, which shut down its Tehran embassy in 1980 after diplomats there sheltered several Americans and smuggled them to safety.

Ties with Italy and West Germany also are being improved. At the same time, Iran is seeking to boost relations with the Soviet Union, whose senior foreign under-secretary, Alexander Bessmertnykh, is visiting Tehran this week.

Iran badly needs foreign capital to rebuild its economy, shattered by the eight-year war with Iraq, although its leaders say that revolutionary ideals cannot be jeopardised by opening up to foreign imports and companies.

But King Fahd of Saudi Arabia said Thursday his country recognised Iran as a centre of Islamic and a strong regional power. Fahd added that he had called off a Saudi media campaign against Iran.

But there is still no sign of any possible restoration of ties between Iran and the United States, broken nine years ago when the American embassy in Tehran was stormed and diplomats held hostage for 444 days.

The Nov. 9 anniversary of the embassy takeover was marked by a rally in Tehran, and the day was named "National Day against Arrogance," a reference to the United States that reflects the strident anti-Americanism still prevailing in Iran.

Vassiliou: Too early to judge success of talks

ROME (AP) — Cypriot President George Vassiliou said Friday it was too early to tell if talks with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash would lead to two-state federation that would reunite the war-divided island.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said the talks could lead to a solution of the Cyprus problem by June. But Vassiliou told reporters Friday that the assessment depended on a lot of political goodwill.

Vassiliou and Denktash, the president of the self-proclaimed Turkish Cypriot republic in north Cyprus, completed two months of talks Monday without making any progress.

They are to meet again in New York Nov. 22-23 to review the talks with Perez de Cuellar.

Dr. Vassos Lyssarides, the president of the Cypriot House of Representatives, said Friday in Nicosia that the U.N.-sponsored talks "are leading nowhere because they tackle the Cyprus problem as an intercommunal difference."

He also contended that the talks were being controlled by Turkey through Denktash.

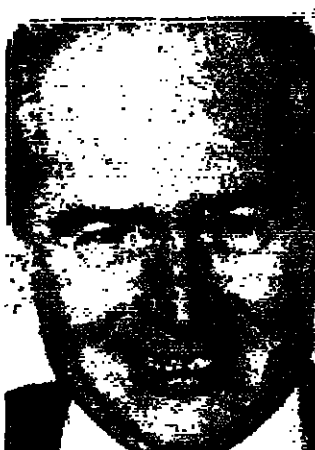
"Whether the talks will lead somewhere or nowhere we simply don't know at this moment," Vassiliou said at a Rome news conference following two days of talks with Italian officials. "I started these talks with all the good will in the world and I want to see these talks leading somewhere. I want to see these talks leading to a solution of the Cyprus problem. And this is what I am striving for."

The role of Turkey is very important and we all know it. And let us hope that Turkey will wish to help so that the talks are successful," he said.

Vassiliou said the talks seek to create a single unified country with a two-state federal system. Under such a system, he explained, the Turkish state would still have Turkish-language government, courts and police.

Denktash rejects a string of U.N. resolutions that demand the withdrawal of an estimated 30,000 Turkish troops and 50,000 mainland settlers from north Cyprus. The resolutions also call for the return of 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees who fled or were forcibly expelled during the 1974 Turkish invasion.

The Turkish Cypriot leader insists that a settlement must be based on a loose federation with the two communities living separately. He also wants the Turkish troops to remain as a guarantee of the Turkish Cypriots' safety.



George Vassiliou

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:50	Programme review
16:00	Children programmes
17:25	Sports
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Local programme
18:45	Children programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Local series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
22:00	News summary in Arabic
22:20	Variety Show
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Programme conclud.
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:30	La Chanson Aux Chateaux
18:30	L'ecole des Fats
19:00	News in French
19:15	Survival at Beau
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Variety programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Only When I Laugh
21:10	Documentary: "The Silk Road"
22:00	News in English
22:20	Magnam P.I.
23:10	Some Mothers Do 'Ave Em
PRAYER TIMES	
04:30	Fajr
05:30	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:20	Dhuhr
14:16	'Asr
16:41	Maghreb
18:01	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic)	
Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic)	
Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 637140	
De la Saule Church (Roman Catholic)	
Jabal Hussein, Tel. 641757.	
English mass (summer time 6 p.m., winter time 5 p.m.).	
Terzavants Church (Routan Catholic).	

Jabal Luweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383, chaplain's residence tel. 625443.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashtafieh, Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashtafieh, Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashtafieh, Tel. 777151.

Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisat, Tel. 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 511295.

Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Interdenominational: English Service: Saturday 6.30 p.m. Tel. 825005, Rev. Veli.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815-817, 821-264.

ment at the Queen Alia International Airport (RJ) 532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:10	Agaba (RJ)
09:15	Jeddah (RJ)
09:30	Amman (RJ)
09:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:05	Larnaca (RJ)
16:20	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:05	Paris (RJ)
17:10	London (RJ)
17:20	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:45	Cairo (RJ)
17:45	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
17:55	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:05	Rome (RJ)
22:30	Aqaba (RJ)
06:20	Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:35	Cairo (MS)
10:00	Damascus (AF)
10:30	Kuwait (KU)
11:20	Damascus (AZ)
12:45	Moscow, Sharjah, Doha (GP)
15:15	Dubai (EK)
16:00	Baghdad (IA)
16:35	Athens, Damascus (OA)
19:05	Beirut (ME)
19:15	Frankfurt (LH)
06:25	London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:25	Agaba (RJ)
06:45	Rome (RJ)
11:05	Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:30	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:30	Cairo (RJ)
19:40	Kuwait (RJ)
20:40	Larnaca (RJ)
20:15	Agaba (RJ)
20:20	Cairo (RJ)
20:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
20:45	Baghdad (RJ)
20:55	Jeddah (RJ)
21:00	Dubai, Sana'a (RJ)
21:00	Damascus (RJ)
21:30	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
22:00	Breusels, Frankfurt (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:20	Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
10:20	Cairo (MS)
10:30	Paris (AF)
11:00	Kuwait (KU)
11:10	Kuwait (KU)
12:10	Rome (A2)
14:45	Doha, Sharjah, Muscat (GF)
16:15	Dubai (EK)
16:20	Damascus, Athens (OA)
17:30	Frankfurt (LH)
20:05	Sana'a (LH)

WEATHER

Balkan supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and an increase on temperature will occur. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	5 / 15
Agaba	10 / 27
Desert	4 / 16
Jordan Valley	15 / 26

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman

man 12.4, Agaba 25.4. Humidity readings: Amman 57 per cent, Agaba 43 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE

Dr. Abdul Qader Al-Lala	896046
Dr. Khaleel H'ajj	743500
Dr. Waleed Al Harezi	675483
Dr. 'Isam Hawawdeh	624630
First pharmacy	661912
Perdoux pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637925
Natroukh pharmacy	626762
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	649451
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660

TAXIS:

Talal taxi	640031
Venice taxi	644584
Asfour taxi	623230
Tamer taxi	813581
Nahla taxi	813581
Holiday taxi	063100
Sayed taxi	604422
Middle East taxi	604615

IRBID:

Dr. Mufeed Jabour	(—)
Al Sharra' pharmacy	985238

ZARQA:

Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'd	(—)
Khalifah pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate	651111
Civil Defence	650001

Al Hussein opens King Abdullah Complex

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Complex and Public Park at Wadi Saqra District was formally opened Saturday by His Majesty King Hussein in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Noor, Princess Alia, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and other senior government and military officials.

The opening of the complex was part of Greater Amman Municipality's celebrations of King Hussein's birthday and is named after the founder of the Kingdom, the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, in recognition of his endeavours to serve his nation.

Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh said in a speech at the outset of the ceremony.

Rawabdeh described the complex as a cultural landmark and serves as a centre for recreation and culture for Amman citizens and visitors to Jordan.

Mr. Sami Rashid, director general of the Amman Development Corporation (ADC) which built the complex, delivered another speech, outlining King Hussein's long endeavours to serve his people.

Rashid reviewed the different projects carried out by the ADC since its establishment and described the complex as another important landmark reflecting Jordan's development.

Towards the end of the ceremony, the King presented medals to a number of engineers employed by the ADC in recognition of their efforts.

The 82,000-square-metre complex offers a variety of attractions



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday cuts the ribbon to formally inaugurate the King Abdullah Ibn Al

Hussein Complex and Public Park at Amman's Wadi Saqra District (Petra photo)

which include cultural, recreational and sports services benefiting the Jordanian people and visitors to the Kingdom.

The complex has 62 stores with access from a number of directions, an amphitheatre for plays or other performances, a car park for 600 vehicles, a children's open theatre, a public garden for which

entry will be free of charge, in addition to a recreation centre which includes a children's garden and an aquarium.

According to the ADC director, the project cost JD 7 million but returns from stores and other facilities will bring in at least seven per cent of the cost annually.

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King Hussein approves amendment to conscription law

Jordanians residing abroad can postpone military service

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian citizens required to do military service are now allowed to postpone this service until the age of 37 provided they acquire a valid work and residence permit from another country where they are employed or wish to get employment.

The announcement was made by Brigadier Mahmoud Abdul Karim Al Balawneh director of the Armed Forces Conscription Department who said that the amendment to the conscription law was endorsed by His Majesty King Hussein and approved by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in his capacity as minister of defence, and also by the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Balawneh said that the new amendment is bound to enable Jordanians to offer more contributions and services to the country's educational and economic projects.

According to Balawneh, all Jordanians who are required to do military service and had left the country before or after Jan. 1, 1976, and or those wishing to travel abroad for work can put off their military service.

Balawneh said that once citizens, who left the country before Jan. 1, 1976, reach the age of 37 they should return to Jordan to do their national service before they are 40 years of age.

Those who left the country after Jan. 1, 1976 and before Oct. 17, 1988 can continue in their present employment but should report to the conscription department for re-adjustment of their position. They can postpone their military service until they reach the age of 37.

As to those wishing to get employment abroad from now on, Balawneh noted, they can also postpone their military service under the above mentioned regulations, and can return for a four-month visit to Jordan every year.

Balawneh said that those failing to report for conscription service before they reach 40 will be imprisoned for three years.

As to the citizens from the West Bank, Balawneh said they will be subject to a new set of regulations agreed on following Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank.

Balawneh noted that those carrying green cards and temporary passports will have their conscription book cancelled, but those who carry yellow cards and permanent passports will be treated as Jordanian citizens.

Those wishing to replace green



Brig. Mahmud Abdul Karim Al Balawneh

cards with yellow ones can do that upon approval from the Followup and Inspection Department of the Armed Forces, according to Balawneh.

But he said those wishing to replace yellow cards with green ones, should be supported by a statement from the Followup and Inspection Department as well before the Conscription Department can cancel their conscription books.

According to Balawneh, citizens with yellow cards cannot conduct any business with government departments unless they produce a three-year valid Israeli permit and those carrying green cards will have to get the Conscription Department approval

before their business is conducted through the government departments.

He said that West Bank citizens living abroad before June 19, 1983 should report to the Conscription Department upon his return to Jordan within 30 days so as to get proper permits to return to the West Bank.

All conscripts who violate the law will have their military service extended but will not be fined as it was practiced previously, Balawneh noted.

He said that any East Bank Jordanian living in the West Bank will be treated on equal footing as Palestinians carrying yellow cards with regard to the conscription service.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

FRENCH ADMIRAL IN JORDAN: Admiral Labouerie, commander in chief of the French fleet in the Indian Ocean met here Saturday with Armed Forces Commander in Chief Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb. They discussed questions of common interest to Jordan and France.

KAKISH RECEIVES CHINESE TEAM: A Chinese economic delegation Saturday visited Aqaba and was briefed by Aqaba Region Authority President Bassam Kakish on the Authority's duties and responsibilities in addition to the projects it executes to develop Aqaba region's economy and the tourism industry. Kakish also received the mayor and municipal council of the Moroccan city of Sraia. The Moroccan delegation intends to attain twinning between Sraia and Aqaba, and to reinforce cultural and scientific relations between the two countries. (Petra) —

YARMOUK EXHIBITION: On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday anniversary, a handicraft and plastic art exhibition was opened Saturday at the Yarmouk University. This falls within the framework of the Jordanian-Chinese cultural week. The five-day exhibition includes paintings depicting the environment in China, handicraft, models of outstanding Chinese historical figures and novelties, and plastic art paintings. (Petra)

ART EXHIBITION: A three-day art exhibition was opened Saturday at the Professional Association Complex in Irbid. The exhibition includes embroidery, flower arrangements and photographs. (Petra)

ARAB TRANSLATORS: The first conference of Arab translators will convene in Baghdad on Nov. 28. During the three-day conference, the participants will discuss about thirty scientific researches on translation institutes in the Arab World, their problems, and their role in the modern age. Translation specialists from Jordan, Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Sudan, Mauritania, North Yemen and South Yemen will participate. (Petra)

NEW WATER NETWORK: The Water Authority of Jordan (W.A.J.) is currently laying a new water network at Umm Al Basatin to provide water to several villages around the town which lies in the Madaba district. A W.A.J. spokesman said that improvement on the water network in nearby Huwara and Jaloul is also underway. (Petra)

RAMTHA ELECTIONS: The people of Ramtha in northern Jordan will vote Sunday to elect a new 10 member municipal council. A total of 14,182 people are eligible to vote and choose the new council from among 24 candidates. (Petra)

COURSE ON QUALITY CONTROL: The Industrial Development Bank's (IDB) Jordan Institute of Management, Saturday opened a week-long training course on quality control. The 20 participants are all managers of industrial firms and other organisations in Jordan. (Petra)

COURSE ON FINANCE: The Institute of Public Administration Saturday opened a three-week training course for newly appointed employees at the Audit Bureau Department. The participants will be oriented on laws and regulations, financial issues and accounting at government departments. (Petra)

CHINESE MILITARY TEAM ENDS VISIT: Visiting Chinese military delegation left Amman Saturday after concluding a several-day visit to Jordan during which they toured a number of military posts and cultural sites. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Mohammad Samara at Alia Art Gallery — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Iyad Al Masri at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ A children's painting exhibition at Hittin Refugee Camp public library.
- ★ An exhibition of iconographies, signs and public places by the German artist Otto Herbert Hajek at the Professional Association Complex — 6:00 p.m.
- ★ A literary exhibition held on the occasion of the centennial birthday of the British poet T.S. Eliot at the Exhibition Hall, the University of Jordan.
- ★ The Egyptian book exhibition at the Arab Club, Irbid.
- ★ An exhibition of Chinese handicrafts and plastic art at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of handicrafts, embroidery, flower arrangement and photographs at the Professional Association Complex, Irbid.

FILM

- ★ A German film entitled "Kamikaze" (English subtitled) at the Yarmouk University — 6:00 p.m.

Queen Noor to attend charity concert Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will attend a concert next Saturday organised by the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped.

The concert, which will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman, will feature three Jordanian artists and a musician from West Germany, and will present famous musical works.

A meeting was held at the society headquarters in Amman

on Saturday to discuss arrangements for the concert which has been organised in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian and the Marriott Hotel in Amman.

The proceeds of the concert, which will be part of the Kingdom's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, are expected to benefit the society's activities and programmes to provide care for the physically handicapped children in the Kingdom.

Japanese journalists begin visit to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of Japanese journalists arrived here Friday evening on a several-day visit to the Kingdom at the invitation of the Ministry of Tourism.

Delegation members are to meet with officials in charge of the tourist sector and tour operators and agents, and will also tour tourist and archaeological sites of Jordan.

The Japanese journalists are later expected to write features on Jordan's attractions in Japan's major newspapers a move de-

signed to help market Jordan abroad, according to an official from the Ministry of Tourism.

An economic investment seminar held in Tokyo last April under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan paved the way for the delegation's visit by urging Japan to help stimulate Jordan's tourism industry.

Tourism Ministry Secretary General Nasri Atallah earlier held talks with the Japanese tourist agents association on ways of promoting tourism in Jordan and organising tourist group visits to the Kingdom.

PSD to reactivate tourist police

AMMAN (Petra) — Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni Saturday discussed with Assistant Public Security Director for Operations and Planning Major General Mahmoud Al Khashman the latest decision by the directorate to reactivate the tourist police.

Ajlouni praised the directorate's measure and said: "This will reflect Jordan's bright image and culture to the world, and develop the concept of tourism."

The Public Security Department decided to increase the staff dealing with tourism by employing university graduates.

Iraqi leader visits Jordanian pavilion

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The Jordanian pavilion at the Baghdad International Trade Fair was Saturday visited by Deputy Chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council Izzat Ibrahim who inspected items on display and was briefed on Jordanian national products.

Ibrahim met with the pavilion's director and the Jordanian Ambassador to Iraq Hilmi Al Lawzi and said that his country can never forget those Arab states which supported the Iraqi people in the eight-year Gulf conflict.

He said that the Iraqi people are pleased to inspect manufactured products from Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. More than half a million people have to date visited the Jordanian pavilion since its opening on Nov. 1, 1988.



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Jordan Times

An Independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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A catalyst for achievement

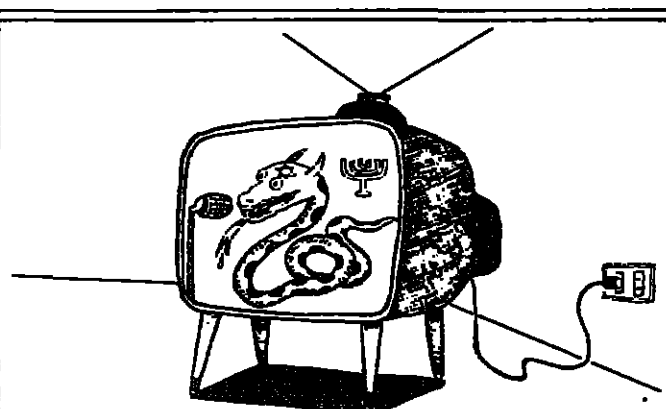
HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's speech Saturday on the occasion of the opening of the Coin Museum at the Central Bank underscored the fact that Jordan's economic and fiscal difficulties in these times constitute a national challenge which Jordanians will ultimately be able to surmount.

His Majesty also reminded the nation that this is not the first time the Hashemite Kingdom has encountered hardships. Hardships, His Majesty stated, have always played the role of a catalyst to strengthen the nation's resolve and determination to move ahead with added vigour and dynamism. Against this backdrop, His Majesty told the country, the belt tightening measures introduced by the government recently to offset fiscal and economic difficulties are by no means transitory steps.

Rather, His Majesty emphasised, such corrective measures are part and parcel of a broad policy with long range objectives in which all of us are invited to participate and support. If we succeed, as we must, in our endeavours, we would in effect consolidate and strengthen our credibility worldwide. As His Majesty wisely reminded the nation, Jordan's credibility in the Arab World and abroad is, as it has always been, one of our prime assets which has helped us wage our struggles on many fronts.

We can see in the words of His Majesty the added assurances that the country needs at this critical stage in our development. We have become accustomed, and rightly so, to His Majesty's personal confidence-building words whenever we face unusual political or economic conditions like the ones we are experiencing nowadays. There is no doubt that the period of readjustment that is being forced upon us will become more comprehensible and acceptable now that we are assured that the new policy guidelines of the country, government and people, will make us more self-reliant.

To be sure, the lessons of self-reliance are perhaps the most honourable lessons of all that any people or country can learn and achieve.



Zaki - Sawt Al Shaab

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i newspaper Saturday discussed His Majesty King Hussein's Gulf tour which lasted several days during which the monarch discussed the Middle East issue, the Gulf situation and other issues of common concern to the Arab Nation. The Jordanian family takes pride in the King's endeavours to bolster joint Arab action, an effort which is required under the current circumstances to consolidate the Arab Nation's gains and to boost its strength in the face of common challenges, the paper noted. This Kingdom which continues to struggle to fend off external dangers is currently involved as well in measures designed to strengthen the national economy, an effort that requires the participation of all Jordanian citizens, the paper added. It said there was a great need for both political and economic efforts to promote Jordan's stance within the Arab World and help the country withstand external threats.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily comments Saturday on the Palestine National Council's session in Algiers, describing it as the most significant of all the previous sessions. The council, which is in effect a parliament for the Palestinian people is being held at a time when that people are involved in an uprising for their freedom, the writer Ibrahim Sakikha notes. This session, the 19th of its kind by the council will be remembered in history as that which ushered in the emergence of the Palestinian independent state and a step that would logically be followed by the creation of institutions that will help the new state to be recognised by various nations. The 19th session's importance is tantamount to that of the first session held in Jerusalem in 1964 when the creation of the Palestine National Council was first declared, says the writer. There is no doubt, he adds, that the new state will be confronted with obstacles and difficulties; but through perseverance and dedication and with backing from the Arab states in general and Jordan in particular the Palestinian state should be able to forge ahead and become an organised reality.

Al Dustour daily also commented on the King's tour in the Gulf which was part of Jordan's endeavours to bolster cooperation among Arab states. The King continues to exert efforts at all levels to serve Jordan and the Arab Nation, and is now involved in intensive contacts with Arab heads of state in view of the grave dangers posed to this nation. The King's talks in Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman centred on the situation in the Gulf, the crisis in Lebanon and the Middle East problem among various other Arab affairs, the paper noted.

Sawt Al Shaab daily dwelt on the same subject and said that the tour was intended as part of Jordan's on-going process of exchanging views with the Arab heads of state and maintain the momentum of the Amman summit meeting of last year. King Hussein, it said, is keen on arriving at a unified Arab stance on the various subjects for discussion at the coming summit meeting. The challenges that the Arabs are facing at the moment are so grave that only an Arab summit can deal with them effectively, the paper noted.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Time to correct the imbalances

ECONOMIC difficulties are normal and not always bad. Many such difficulties serve as an invitation for change, and correction of past trends.

The current economic situation in Jordan could be the start of disappointment for some, but it could also be a chance to adjust imbalances within the Jordanian economy, and reorganise it, to pave the way for a new course towards progress and growth, from a solid base rather than building on shifting sands.

The basic reason behind the temporary current economic crisis is the accumulating imbalances in the structure of the Jordanian economy, which call for urgent adjustment. Adjustment can be brought about either as a planned target to avert foreseen problems, or as an inevitability. Unfortunately, we have missed the opportunity to take action during the past five years, and finally found ourselves compelled to act.

Imbalances can be found in many aspects of the Jordanian economy.

The public expenditure of the central government is as high as 70 per cent of the gross domestic product. Domestic revenue, despite the very high tax, does not cover more than 85 per cent of recurring expenses. The foreign assets of the Central Bank of Jordan were allowed to drop to a low level. The volume of commodity imports are three times the volume of national exports. The labour force is much higher than the job opportunities available in the country. The population is too high relative to the limited natural resources. The Jordan dinar was artificially overvalued by some 20 per cent of its real value. Finally Jordanians were leading a standard of life, way above their realistic means; expenditure on consumption and investment exceeded the gross national product by some 33 per cent.

These and other imbalances must be corrected and adjusted. At minimum, the economic situation should be steadied at a certain level.

The imbalances were not difficult to detect and identify. They

were always with us especially since the beginning of the '80s. Some officials knew the facts as early as 1982 but claimed that talking about them in public would affect confidence.

Now that there is no pretence that what we are facing is a temporary and normal Third World crisis, it is time to rebuild trust and credibility. Without credibility, the economy could not be managed with success. Even correct measures and policies have little chance of success unless people adopt them, and take them seriously.

While rebuilding credibility, we should formulate integrated packages of policies and measures. Certain features of the packages may be reduction of public sector spending, narrowing budget deficit, rescheduling external commitments, enlarging the tax base and cancelling meaningless exemptions, rebuilding foreign reserves, restoring real legal stability, respecting the law, and last, but not least, encouraging and accepting more involvement in policy-making.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

New hope for clean water in Third World

By Rosemary Laurent
Reuters

THE HAGUE — The way to cleaner water in the world's poorest countries may be inexpensive and old-fashioned.

Pumps that are hand-operated rather than electrified, for example, could be a major weapon in the fight against disease-infested drinking water in the Third World, aid workers say.

The possibility that the way forward does not necessarily lie in costly high technology has given new hope to policy makers as a 10-year United Nations campaign for clean water draws to a close without achieving its goal.

"Thirty five thousand people, most of them children, die every day all over the world from water-related diseases," said Sandy Rosival, a leading delegate at international talks here last week on drinking water and sanitation in the Third World.

"That's like four jumbo jets crashing every hour... it's not only unacceptable, it's immoral," said Rosival, an American who heads the U.N. water and sanitation decade launched in 1980.

But while the U.N. effort had failed in its goal of giving clean water to all by 1990, important lessons had been learnt which enabled experts to reassess their future strategy.

In the past, policy makers and technicians in Third World countries tended to seek high-technology answers dependent on heavy financial backing from central governments.

But trials showed for example that cheap, locally produced manual pumps met water needs more effectively than complex electrified systems.

"It's taken us eight years to realise that the only systems that can really work must be set up and maintained by the community they serve," Rosival told Reuters in an interview.

"When an electric pump breaks down it may take six months to get spare parts to some remote villages, so people just go back to drinking from rivers and water holes," Rosival said.

Other examples of low-cost, easy-to-use technology included hand-built latrines and the use of sand to filter water.

"We have not yet made a major breakthrough in terms of giving people a better service, but we have learnt the key to future

progress lies in low-cost, locally funded projects," he said.

He said such affordable solutions were also essential as Western nations were unlikely to boost their meagre 15-per-cent contribution to total investment in Third World water supply.

"At the start of the decade we estimated it would require \$600 billion to ensure an adequate water and sanitation service to all Third World towns and villages," Rosival noted.

"Now we realise, using appropriate low-cost technology we can provide the same service for \$200 billion," he added.

Tanzanian water ministry official Nerezi Msimbira, one of 60 aid agency and government representatives attending the talks, agreed the main achievement of the last eight years was a change in attitude.

"Before the eighties I would never have thought of introducing such a simple thing as a hand pump... Now people in my country are crying out for them," said Msimbira, adding that technicians used to believe sophisticated pipe systems were the answer to Tanzania's chronic water supply problems.

'Weak education hampers development'

BERLIN — Developing countries that ignore the need to build up their education systems are compromising their long-term prospects for economic growth and development, according to Willy Wapenhans, World Bank Senior Vice President for External Affairs and Administration.

Developing countries must make "human resource development a critical priority in their overall development strategies," Wapenhans said at a meeting of educators in Berlin Sept. 30.

But setting priorities, he said, "means deciding on difficult trade-offs... between quantity and quality, primary and higher levels of education, and training at home and abroad."

Helping countries become more responsive to their changing economic and social environments requires a "reorientation of human resource development strategies," Wapenhans said.

"More emphasis must be laid on training for technical, managerial and entrepreneurial activities for the effective management of technology acquisition, adaptation and development."

"Critical choices indeed must be made," he added, "as countries decide what levels of technological competence their workers need to reach and at what affordable pace."

Spelling out a strategy for improving education in the developing world, Wapenhans said the "first priority must centre on providing access to and improving the quality of basic education."

"It is each society's responsibility to inculcate the value of learning," he concluded. (But) "It is the international community's challenge... to help furnish the means for reform and quality education that will sustain mankind's progress" — World Bank News.

Lebanese army falls prey to sectarianism

By Zina Hemady
Reuters

BEIRUT — The Lebanese army, once seen as the one institution able to rescue the faction-ridden country, has itself fallen prey to sectarianism.

Weakened by splits and desertion among officers and rank-and-file soldiers, the army was dealt what could be a crippling blow on Wednesday when it was left with two commanders, one Muslim and one Christian.

Lebanon's Muslim Defence Minister Adel Ossseiran declared vacant the post of army commander, held by Maronite Christian General Michel Aoun, because he had entered politics to head an all-Christian military government.

The minister named Sunni Muslim Brigadier Sami Al Khatib as temporary commander.

The war-ravaged country ruled by two governments and a crippled parliament is now left with a split army.

A Muslim military source said Khatib's authority would be limited to five mainly-Muslim brigades of around 15,000 troops.

Aoun would command about 15,000 men serving in five mostly-Christian brigades.

The first task of Khatib, who commanded an Arab deterrent force that tried to end factional fighting in Lebanon 12 years ago, would be to merge the Muslim brigades and strengthen them in order to control areas under his command, the sources said.

Lebanon has since September been ruled by rival governments, one Christian led by Aoun and the other mainly-Muslim led by acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss, a Sunni who headed the last administration that served under former President Amin Gemayel.

The brigades under Khatib's command are located in the north, the south, the eastern Bekaa Valley, parts of the Lebanese mountains and Beirut.

Aoun's troops are stationed in the Christian enclave north and northeast of the capital.

The source said 20 per cent of Aoun's men were Muslim. His five brigades were by far the best-trained and equipped troops in the army, he added.

He said the Christians controlled the air force — a few ageing Hawker Hunter jets and more than 30 helicopters — the navy, tanks and artillery acquired since the start of the war.

"The Muslims only have a few

dozen T-54 tanks supplied by Syria and old weaponry. They have received no army-wear, equipment or spare parts since 1976," he added.

Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon has some 25,000 troops stationed there.

The army suffered sectarian splits and mutiny early in Lebanon's 13 years of civil war.

When the civil war broke out in 1975, there were efforts to keep the military from splintering by confining the troops to barracks, but the attempts failed.

When battles flared between right-wing Christian militias and the Palestinians and their leftist allies, some army units joined the

Christians, while the leftists formed a separate army.

A third group chose to remain neutral and stayed home. After Israel's devastating invasion of Lebanon in 1982, Gemayel strove to strengthen the army by transforming it into a 37,000-man force which he hoped would be capable of disbanding militias and ending foreign domination of parts of the country.

The army embarked on a rigorous training and re-equipment programme under U.S. and French instructors.

By the end of 1984, the military had doubled its strength from 18,000 troops in 1975 to 36,000 and acquired new equipment including modernised U.S.-made M-48 tanks and 155 MM guns.

LETTERS

Confusing

To the Editor:

THE visit by our Philippine Labour Minister in Jordan to "formalise" himself with his Jordanian counterpart over regulations and for an agreement for the protection of working Filipinos here is both relieving and confusing.

It is relieving because it would perhaps finally mean the end of many forms of ongoing hiring irregularities and employer abuses which usually have ignorant Filipino workers the hapless victims.

On the other hand, it is confusing to know that the signed document was after all only the Memorandum of Agreement between the two governments reached in 1981. Meaning an agreement in force, but not implemented, for reasons worth asking about.

Joel A. Martin
P.O. Box 99
Aqaba - Jordan.

We agree

To the Editor:

WE fully agree with Adnan Haddad's Open Forum of Nov. 6 and with his bitter remarks about the mainly unnoticed death toll in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, especially with his comparison of the Palestinian plight to the rescue of the whales.

The daily reports about the intifada are taken as a token like dust and dawn. Is that humanity?

Mertje and Harald Grasko
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EN BREF

Le retour du jeudi

Après une incursion au dimanche et des visées impérialistes sur le mercredi, Le Jourdain a fini par abandonner son bercail du jeudi de cette semaine. Toutes autres rumeurs concernant son jour de parution doivent être tenues pour intoxication. A jeudi, donc.

Algérie: sang neuf

Kasbi Merbah a été nommé à la tête d'un nouveau gouvernement algérien le 5 novembre, quarante-huit heures après les 92% de "oui" recueillis lors du référendum sur la séparation des pouvoirs entre le chef de l'Etat et le premier ministre. Il a formé un gouvernement de "techniciens", excluant les témoins de l'ancien cabinet, afin de mener un programme de réformes et d'ouverture. "Réputé "intègre, travailleur et efficace", M. Merbah a occupé différents postes ministériels depuis 1980. Il est également agréé par la population de Kabylie, dont il est originaire.

Référendum: "Oui" évasif

Le référendum sur l'avenir de la Nouvelle-Calédonie, proposant une période transitoire de dix ans puis un scrutin d'autodétermination en 1998, a recueilli 80% de "oui". Mais deux Français sur trois ont boudé les urnes: on enregistrait un taux d'abstention record de 63%, camouflé pour Michel Rocard qui avait présidé à la signature des accords entre indépendantistes et loyalistes. En Nouvelle-Calédonie, la participation a été de 63% et le "oui" l'a emporté à 57%. A Nouméa, fief caldoche, 60% des électeurs ont dit "non", fragilisant le succès relatif du référendum.

Amman — Taux de participation: 38%. Sur 47 suffrages exprimés, 24 "oui" (51%) et 23 "non" (49%).

Accident ferroviaire: 10 morts

Neuf ouvriers du rail et un voyageur ont été tués dans la collision d'un train express et d'un véhicule de maintenance, le 7 novembre près d'Épernay, à la suite d'une erreur d'aiguillage. Cet accident est le quatrième du genre en France cette année et porte le nombre total de victimes à 70 morts et plus de 180 blessés dans des accidents ferroviaires en 1988. Le plus meurtrier avait eu lieu le 27 juin en gare de Lyon à Paris, où 56 voyageurs avaient trouvé la mort dans une collision. Un mois plus tard, un nouvel accident avait entraîné la démission du président de la SNCF, Philippe Rouvillois, remplacé par Jean Costet.

Charles et Diana à Paris

Le prince Charles et Lady Di ont effectué du 7 au 12 novembre une visite officielle en France, largement protocolaire et symbolique, mais particulièrement brillante. La France républicaine n'a pas lésiné pour accueillir dans le faste le futur souverain et son épouse, avec réceptions à l'Élysée et au château de Chambord. Lady Di a fait sensation en arborant un ensemble Chanel, alors qu'elle est normalement tenue à s'habiller en Anglétterre pour ses déplacements officiels. Et, pour les célébrations du 11 novembre, on a vu pour la première fois depuis 1815 défiler sur les Champs-Élysées un détachement des Welsh guards, dont le prince est colonel, avec bonnets à poils et tuniques rouges.

La marine française à Aqaba.

L'amiral Labonerie, commandant en chef des forces françaises dans l'Océan indien, a rencontré le 12 novembre à Amman le maréchal Zeid Ibn Shaker, commandant en chef des forces armées jordaniennes. Le navire de commandement de la marine française effectuait une escale de courtoisie dans le port d'Aqaba.

Le saviez-vous?

Point ne siffleras

Il est très inconvenant de siffler en passant devant une mosquée. Ce qui chez les Occidentaux est synonyme de bonne humeur passe en effet chez beaucoup de musulmans pour un appel au démon. Cette interprétation, qui ne trouve aucun fondement écrit dans le Coran, est néanmoins courante. Et le gai siffler du vendredi qui entonne candide-ment l'air du "Pont de la rivière Kwai" en passant à proximité d'un lieu de culte se verra fusiller du regard comme le serait celui qui pénétrerait dans une église en chantant "Viens Poupoule."

Leur nombre a triplé en moins de dix ans

Amman: mosquées-champignons

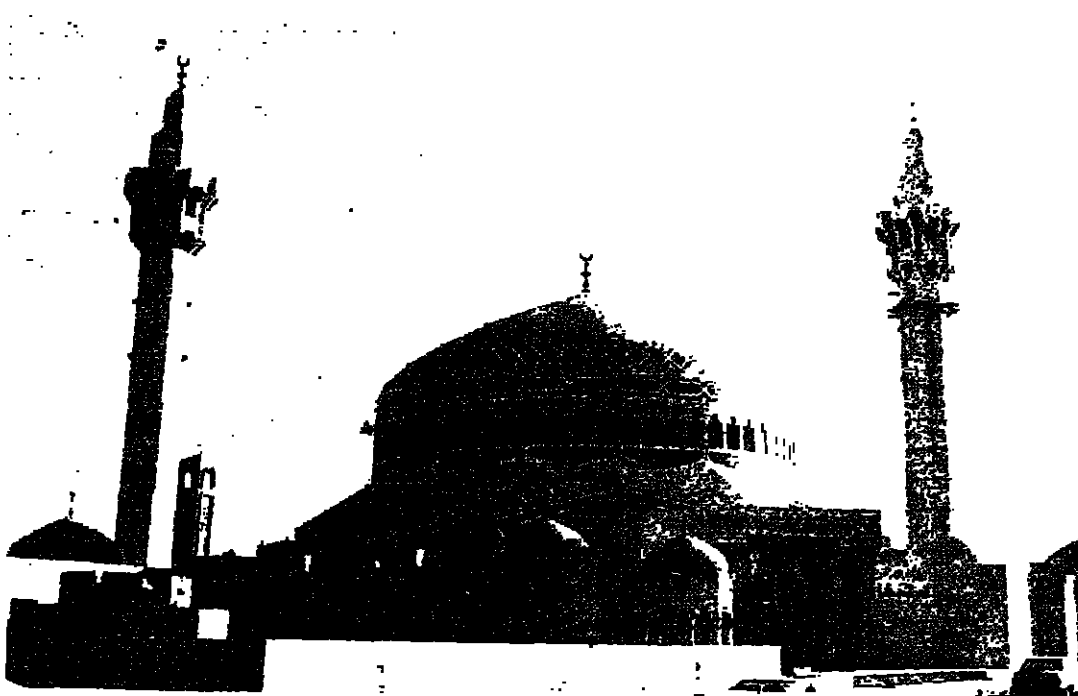
Si beaucoup d'argent privé a été investi ces dernières années dans la construction de mosquées, on a oublié d'y mettre du goût, estiment beaucoup d'architectes à Amman. Ils se réfèrent à la simplicité des premiers lieux de prière pour imaginer les mosquées de demain. Mais les meilleurs travaillent pour l'étranger. Nul n'est prophète en son pays.

"Partout est la mosquée." Ce proverbe musulman ne signifie pas que les mosquées sont à tous les coins de rue, mais plutôt que n'importe quel endroit fait l'affaire, pourvu qu'on y prie. A Amman cependant, on serait tenté d'utiliser la première définition: depuis une dizaine d'années, la capitale semble gagnée par une épidémie de construction dévote. Amman a vu tripler son parc de mosquées depuis 1980, alors que la population s'accroît de 20% dans la même période. On en compte aujourd'hui 435, pour 1,2 millions d'habitants, selon le ministère des affaires religieuses.

Samir Axtani, responsable culturel au ministère, y voit la conjonction de deux éléments: d'une part un renouveau de la foi, qu'on observe dans tout le monde islamique (les jeunes, en particulier, redécouvrent la prière) et d'autre part l'enrichissement des Jordaniens consécutif au boom pétrolier. "Les gens riches, en particulier quand ils ont vécu à l'étranger, ont souvent ressenti un malaise du trop-plein matériel et se sont tournés vers la religion," dit-il. Le résultat est visible à l'oeil nu: 99% des mosquées d'Amman ont été bâties avec des fonds privés. Le ministère de l'Awqaf se charge ensuite de rémunérer le personnel religieux et d'assurer l'entretien des bâtiments.

L'Etat encourage du reste ces initiatives privées en exemptant le bailleur de fonds d'impôts sur les revenus consacrés à la construction d'une mosquée.

Les minarets poussent ainsi en forêts dans la capitale, surtout dans les quartiers neufs surgis du désert depuis 1980. Mais à l'inverse des prodiges d'imagination déployés dans la construction de bâtiments d'habitation, les mos-



La Mosquée King Abdullah: 6 millions de dinars pour un monument de prestige.

quées font ici figure de parents pauvres de l'architecture. La richesse des matériaux prime souvent sur le souci de cohérence esthétique et culturelle, selon la plupart des architectes rencontrés.

Incohérences

Premier constat, il y a peu de grandes mosquées à Amman, garnie d'une myriade de lieux de cultes aux dimensions réduites. Le coût de construction n'y est sans doute pas pour rien: selon Zahi Khayyat, qui en a conçu plusieurs à Amman, l'érection d'une mosquée revient facilement à 600.000 dinars, voire plus, si l'on veut la parer de marbre et autres lambris sculptés. Même avec des prétentions plus modestes, on peut difficilement descendre au-dessous de 100.000 dinars. Et à ce prix-là, le lieu sacré ressemblera à une maison ordinaire flanquée d'un bulbe et d'un minaret.

Jafer Toukan, architecte réputé de la capitale, estime que la plupart de ces "mosquées-champignons" sont dessinées en dépit du bon sens, voire pas dessinées du tout: "Certains donateurs font eux-mêmes leurs plans, qu'il faut ensuite signer par un architecte,

moeynant petite enveloppe. Les gens ne se rendent pas compte qu'il ne suffit pas d'y mettre toute sa foi, mais qu'une mosquée nécessite de l'expérience et la maîtrise des matériaux pour ressembler à quelque chose."

On ne peut certainement pas adresser ce reproche à la nouvelle mosquée King Abdullah, à Abdali, dont l'audace architecturale et la rotonde bleu-lspahan ont englobé la coquette somme de 6 millions de dinars. Mais là, c'est l'Etat qui paie. Kamal Al-Sharif, qui était ministre de l'Awqaf lors du lancement du projet en 1981, souligne la nouveauté du concept de mosquée nationale: "Mis à part la mosquée Hussein en basse-ville, rénovée dans sa forme actuelle par le roi abdallah dans les années 40, Amman n'avait pas de lieu de culte prestigieux comme en étaient dotées Damas ou Bagdad. Avant 1967, Al Aqsa à Jérusalem jouait ce rôle. Mais l'occupation israélienne nous a coupé de ce monument historique. Nous avons donc voulu donner à Amman sa mosquée-symbole, qui porte le nom du fondateur du Royaume." Ses plans ont été choisis par concours parmi les projets de treize architectes.

L'ouverture de la mosquée, prévue initialement le 31 octobre, a été retardée jusqu'au 7 avril, premier jour du Ramadan. Mais d'ores et déjà, les vues aériennes télévisées de la capitale privilégient son dôme, comme on s'attarde à Paris sur la Tour Eiffel. Avec 35 m de haut, il est le plus élevé de tout le Proche-Orient (10 m de plus que le dôme doré d'Al Aqsa). Jan Cejka, architecte tchèque auteur du monument, s'est d'ailleurs inspiré du lieu saint de Jérusalem en dessinant King Abdullah. Le complexe inclut également une école coranique et un centre culturel islamique.

une bibliothèque et trois salles de conférences dont la plus grande peut accueillir 400 personnes.

"Nous voulons que cette mosquée, au-delà d'un lieu de prière, soit aussi un lieu de vie, un centre de débats et d'instruction; nous voulons réaffirmer le rôle social de la mosquée", dit Kamal Al-Sharif. Une fonction également chère au coeur des architectes. Rasem Badran, Jordanien lauréat du concours pour la grande mosquée de Bagdad, estime que la mosquée Hussein, en basse ville, est à cet égard un exemple à suivre. "Au centre de la ville, elle est aussi au centre de la vie. C'est autour d'elle que s'organisent magasins et souks; c'est sur son esplanade que l'on se donne rendez-vous et que l'on discute". Mieux encore: elle est une plaque tournante des travailleurs journaliers en quête d'un emploi.

Quel quartier?

Poursuivant son idée, Rasem Badran reste perplexe quant au lieu choisi pour bâtir la mosquée King Abdullah. "Elle a été construite au milieu d'un quartier d'affaires et de ministères, à deux pas du Parlement. Tout le contraire d'un lieu de passage populaire. Pour y aller, il faudra prendre le métro. Elle est excentrée, alors qu'il aurait fallu l'implanter au coeur du tissu urbain". Selon lui, le souci de prestige l'a emporté sur la fonction sociale de la mosquée. Il confie avoir rencontré le même inconvénient en concevant la grande mosquée de Bagdad, située à l'extérieur de la ville. Et il cite en contre-exemple les mosquées historiques du Caire, enchâssées au coeur des souks, humaines et toujours lieux de passage malgré leur architecture monumentale.

Muezzins du bout des ondes

Il est bien fini, le temps où cinq fois par jour, le muezzin appelait les fidèles à la prière du haut de son minaret. Depuis longtemps, sa voix est amplifiée et diffusée par un haut-parleur fixé au sommet du minaret. Ou encore, on remplace le muezzin par un enregistrement sur bande. Mais il y a mieux: depuis dix ans à Amman, la plupart des mosquées sont reliées par les ondes à la grande mosquée Abu Darwish d'Ashrafieh, située au sommet d'une colline. Elle est équipée d'un studio et d'un émetteur radio qui, cinq fois par jour, diffuse les appels à la

prière lues au micro par le muezzin-speaker.

Ainsi, en principe, toutes les mosquées diffusent au même moment la même émission, ce qui évite les cacophonies. Mais il arrive que certains muezzins, dont la mission est d'"allumer le poste" au bon moment, oublient de le faire à temps. Dans ce cas, ils téléphonent à Ashrafieh et demandent une réémission, avec cinq minutes de décalage. En avril prochain, la mosquée King Abdullah devra remplacer la mosquée Abu-Darwish dans cette fonction émettrice.

Au total, Rasem Badran pense qu'on peut difficilement marier le triomphalisme d'une mosquée "de prestige" et le dépouillement humble enseigné par le Coran. Préférant la sobriété des mosquées du Golfe à la riche ornementation de celles d'Afrique du Nord ou de Damas, il insiste sur ce point: "C'est à Dieu qu'on s'adresse en priant, la mosquée n'est qu'un vecteur, qui doit se faire discret pour ne pas détourner l'attention de l'essentiel. Il vaut mieux investir de l'argent dans une école que dans la décoration d'une mosquée."

Sacrilège? Rasem Badran appuie son point de vue sur l'exemple de la première mosquée de l'histoire, à Médine, utilisée par le prophète. Il s'agissait d'une simple enceinte rectangulaire couverte d'un auvent à une extrémité. Et il rappelle cette anecdote dont il fut le témoin lors d'une cérémonie officielle dans le stade de Riyad: "Vers 22h00, l'heure de la prière est venue; les spectateurs sont alors tout simplement descendus des gradins pour prier au centre du stade, par milliers." Simplicité et horizontalité sont les lignes directrices de la prière.

En ce sens, Akram Abu-Hamdan, architecte, conteste la verticalité systématique des mosquées d'Amman, tirées vers le haut par leurs bulbes et leurs minarets. Celle qu'il construit actuellement à Jeddah (Arabie saoudite) est rythmée par les lignes horizontales, "car c'est en ligne que l'on prie, dans un esprit égalitaire." Sa mosquée, à l'inverse des bâtiments compacts reconstruits à et là, est ouverte sur l'extérieur par une plaza, qu'il veut lieu de rencontre, facilement pénétrable depuis la rue. Et le minaret, court parallélépipède de verre, est réduit à son expression la plus symbolique. On respire.

A bas les minarets

Mais quid de la tradition? Akram Abu-Hamdan sourit. "Depuis la mosquée de Médine, la tradition islamique est faite d'une collection d'influences: le bulbe est inspiré des églises byzantines, symbolisant le toit de l'univers. La rotonde d'Al Aqsa elle-même est héritière de l'architecture romaine. Les dômes ont été généralisés par Sinan le magnifique (Turquie, 16ème siècle), qui subissait l'influence du gigantisme des cathédrales chrétiennes. Tous ces toits ronds n'ont pas vraiment de raison d'être: ils suggèrent la centralité, alors que la directionnalité vers La Mecque est l'élément le plus important d'une mosquée. Et qu'est-ce qu'une tradition si elle n'est pas enrichie d'idées nouvelles?"

Aucune mosquée d'Amman ne trouve grâce aux yeux de cet architecte futuriste. "Avec autant d'argent investi, on devrait avoir construit plusieurs chefs-d'oeuvre. Mais non. On empile un dôme et un minaret, et le tour est joué". Il souligne du reste la mesure de ces minarets par rapport à la taille des bâtiments, comme si leur hauteur était proportionnelle à la foi du constructeur. Alors que l'usage des micros, selon lui, les rend pratiquement caducs. Tel n'est pas l'avis de Zahi Khayyat, qui met l'accent sur la fonction visuelle, et non seulement auditive, des minarets. "On qu'on se trouve dans la ville, il est bon de pouvoir au premier coup d'oeil localiser la mosquée la plus proche, quand on veut prier", dit-il. Mais après tout, "la mosquée est partout" et peu importe l'endroit, pourvu que l'on y prie...

François Ducroux

Importations: ceinture

Limitation des importations, taxes en hausses sur une série de produits importés, le gouvernement jordanien a annoncé la semaine dernière une série de mesures visant à soutenir l'économie nationale, suite au glissement du dinar, qui a perdu plus de 30% de sa valeur face au dollar depuis le début de l'année.

A compter du 6 novembre 1988 et jusqu'au 31 décembre 1989, sont interdites les importations des produits suivants: automobiles, téléviseurs, matériel vidéo, réfrigérateurs, climatiseurs, mobilier (sauf médical), chandeliers, fous à micro-ondes, marbre, carrelage, granit, briques, statues, fleurs et fruits artificiels.

Par ailleurs, on a imposé sur certains produits de luxe de

nouvelles taxes: 10% sur les notes de restaurants d'au moins quatre étoiles, 3% de hausse sur les billets d'avions pour l'étranger vendus en Jordanie, augmentation de la taxe de départ (ex. par avion: 10 dinars pour les non-Jordaniens, 25 dinars pour les locaux).

Les droits de douanes ont également été augmentés pour les produits importés suivants: 70% sur les parfums et atomiseurs (contre 33% auparavant), cosmétiques (100% contre 73%), cigarettes (5 JD/kg contre 4 JD/kg), crème à raser et dentifrice (60% contre 40 et 55%), entre autres.

Les produits pharmaceutiques importés vendus dans les pharmacies privées augmentent pour leur part de 30%.

FIGURE

L'histoire rectifiée

L'historien jordanien Suleiman Moussa s'est vu décerner le 3 novembre le prix de la meilleure étude sur la civilisation islamique, des mains du Prince Hassan. Cette distinction saluait "L'émirat de Transjordanie, naissance et évolution (1921-1946)".

Chrétien originaire de Mafrak, M. Moussa, 68 ans, est actuellement conseiller culturel de la municipalité d'Amman. Auto-didacte, il a consacré trente ans de sa vie à la recherche historique. Son premier ouvrage, "La grande révolution arabe", remonte à 1957. Il a depuis publié une vingtaine de livres sur l'histoire de la Jordanie. L'an dernier, la sortie de "Voyage en Jordanie et en Palestine" n'est pas passée inaperçue: il s'agissait d'une compilation d'articles de voyageurs étrangers sur les conditions de vie des deux régions au siècle dernier.

Mais l'oeuvre maîtresse de l'historien reste "Histoire de la Jordanie au XXème siècle, référence en la matière. écrit en collaboration avec l'avocat Munib Madi en 1959. Camouflé pour les



Suleiman Moussa

thèses coloniales. "Songes et mensonges de Lawrence (ed. Sinbad, Paris 1973) publié en 1960, répond aux allégations occidentales selon lesquelles l'officier britannique aurait été le véritable instigateur de la révolte arabe de 1916. Son plaidoyer a été traduit en anglais, français et japonais.

Suleiman Sweiss

MANGER

Amigo Nabil: bien saignant

Il a beau ne pas être italien, l'ami Nabil Naciachibi sait faire les lasagnes. Pas sectaire, il propose aussi bien les mezzes que cuisines italiennes et européennes. Et il est très à cheval sur la viande de bœuf, qu'il va lui-même choisir sur le marché, ainsi que ses légumes. Chez Nabil, on peut commander un filet saucisson, sans danger d'avoir à en découdre avec un morceau de viande grossièrement attendri au maillot. A la qualité de la viande s'ajoute un cadre rustique à l'euro-péenne. Vitraux style anglo-saxon, nappes à carreaux façon Roger-la-frite, éclairage tamisé à la bougie. Très exotique sous ces latitudes.

Pour les intellectuels en mal de liberté d'expression, les murs

sont garnis de panneaux où chacun peut griffonner ses élucubrations après un bon verre de vin rouge. Coïncidence? L'Amigo Nabil est fréquenté par les artistes, éditorialistes, et autres détestistes de la capitale. La bourgeoisie bon teint se mêle aux gens du spectacle, les expatriés aux Jordaniens. Et pourtant, on est loin du luxe tape-à-l'oeil et des additions immodestes qui vont souvent de pair avec une telle clientèle. Pour un repas réparateur, compter 5 dinars environ. Et ne surtout pas passer à côté de l'excellente soupe à l'oignon en ouverture. Nabil sait faire.

Amigo Nabil, à l'hôtel Granada, ler cercle. Dernières commandes à 23h30. Tel: 638031.

A L'AFFICHE

RADIO

Jacques Brel

Ce dimanche soir, Radio Jordan commémore le dixième anniversaire de la mort du grand chanteur belge. De 22h00 à 23h00, Samir Kamal diffusera dans son Sunday evening show des chansons du "grand Jacques" et évoquera la vie de Brel en compagnie de Jean-Pierre Maury, responsable de la cellule audio-visuelle régionale française.

THEATRE

English teaching theatre

Ou comment joindre l'utile à l'agréable: dans une série de sketches désopilants, un groupe d'acteurs et de musiciens font vivre les mots que vous connaissez déjà et comprennent ceux que vous n'avez jamais entendus. Grand succès en Allemagne, Argentine, Finlande, Danemark...

British Council, dimanche 13 à 16h30

CINEMA

Tendre poulet

De Philippe Broca, avec Philippe Noiret et Annie Girardot (1978): un commissaire de police retrouve un ami, vingt ans après.

CCF, mercredi 16 à 20h00

Ma photo dans le journal

Wadi Rum, octobre: je n'avais jamais remarqué cette ressemblance entre un cou de chameau et un porte-manteau.

(Photo Azmi Al-Khatib, Jordanie)

Vous aussi, envoyez-nous vos clichés drôles ou insolites, avec un court texte. Nous en ferons profiter les lecteurs.

B.B. King

"Live at Nick's" concert filmé du roi du Chicago-blues, lesté de sa guitare rouge et de son complet-cravate. Centre américain, mardi à 19h00 (en anglais)

Ciné-club

(Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00, 20h30) Le 12: Flash dance. The chemist. Heaven can wait. Chisum. 48 hours. Le 13: Guns and fury. Two of a kind. Goodbye girl. The army with five men. The deer hunter. Le 14: Cabaret. Hair. Salvador. Zoltan. Raiders of the lost ark. Le 15: The park. Silent movie. Meaning of life. Rains over Santiago. The pirates. Le 16: The band. Georgia's night. Rebecca. John and Mary. The passenger. Le 17: Doctor Jivago. The connection. Unmarried. Shoot the moon. I am now a woman. Le 18: The survivor. Three guns to Cesar. The elevator. The snake's egg. Frankenstein junior.

Films en version originale. Tel: 633901. Route de l'université, à droite après le bâtiment "Caterpillar", puis tête à gauche, 300 m.

Table ronde

Votre français ne s'use que si vous ne vous en servez pas. Tous les dimanche à 18h00 au Centre culturel français, vous pouvez participer librement à des discussions animées par des résidents français.



Soirée électorale au Centre américain

Les Jordaniens votent Bush

Nuit électorale au Centre américain d'Amman: les Jordaniens, majoritaires dans l'assistance, auraient voté George Bush. Ils n'ont pas été déçus.

Le grand soir des élections américaines s'est traduit par un noctambulisme inhabituel, le 8 novembre, au Centre américain d'Amman. Portes ouvertes toute la nuit, couverture télévisée retransmise sur grand écran vidéo par satellite.

Distribution de badges, canotiers à rubans, murs pavoisés aux couleurs de l'onde Sam et autres ballons de baudruche: toute l'atmosphère d'une kermesse électorale à l'américaine a été reconstituée dans la salle de projection du centre. Ambiance de fête: même la sécurité est relâchée à l'entrée et les fouilles habituelles pour une fois oubliées. On se presse autour du buffet garni de petits gâteaux et de café — la nuit sera longue. Dans la salle, des journalistes, quelques diplomates, mais surtout beaucoup de Jordaniens contre très peu d'Américains, qui ont

préférés rester chez eux. L'atmosphère est du reste bien enfumée, signe de l'absence des premiers intéressés...

On est venu par curiosité, pour boire un café, manger un petit four, discuter un peu politique...étrangère, en attendant de savoir que les Américains vont choisir pour "gouverner le monde."

En début de soirée, une conférence-débat sur le thème: "une perspective jordanienne des élections américaines." Les intervenants: Taysser Ammari, fondateur et directeur de l'hôpital Ibn Sina, Suheil Matalaka du ministère de l'information et Faycal Al-Fayez, numéro deux du protocole au Palais royal. Ils ont été invités aux Etats-Unis pour suivre une partie de la campagne électorale dans plusieurs Etats, et donnent leurs impressions.

"Un regard louche"

On donne ses avis, on discute à bâtons rompus. Les rares Américains présents essaient les critiques qui fusent sur la politique américaine au Proche-Orient.



Les Jordaniens, qui expriment librement leurs craintes et leurs espoirs, semblent majoritairement favorables à une victoire de George Bush. Car il ressort clairement des opinions exprimées qu'aucun Jordanien présent ne porte Michael Dukakis dans son coeur. D'abord, "sa femme est juive"; ensuite, "il manque trop d'expérience en politique étrangère", "il veut faire de Jérusalem la capitale d'Israël" et pour

conclure, "il a un drôle de regard, pas net."

Une fois assénée cette analyse cinglante de la dissymétrie sourcilieuse du candidat démocrate, on examine avec beaucoup plus d'indulgence le cas Bush. Il a même droit à des compliments pour sa maîtrise de la politique extérieure, sa connaissance des problèmes proche-orientaux. Bref, si l'on votait dans cette salle de projection d'Amman, Bush

serait plébiscité par les Jordaniens...

Toutefois, deux courtes remarques freinent un peu cet épanchement pro-républicain, réveillant l'inquiétude latente des Arabes vis-à-vis de la paix dans la région: "Pourquoi nous intéressons-nous à ces élections? Nous savons que quel que soit le vainqueur, cela ne changera rien à la situation dans notre région, à savoir: un soutien solide des Américains aux Israéliens et peu d'aide aux Arabes; rien ne va changer." L'intervention jette un froid.

Plus tard dans la nuit, l'excitation fait place aux bâillements. Le public se clairseme, on regarde d'un oeil vitreux la retransmission de la soirée électorale de la chaîne ABC sur grand écran. Le va-et-vient des curieux se fait plus discret. Mais le café est toujours chaud. Et à 2h00 du matin, quand tombent les premiers résultats sur six Etats — 78 voix pour Bush contre zéro à son adversaire —, l'assistance ne bronche pas. Etait-ce l'indifférence? Ou alors le café était trop léger... très américain.

Raja Ben Ayed

U.S. officials disavow view Bush advocates lower dollar

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. officials sought Friday to dispel an impression in the foreign exchange markets that the incoming Bush administration would tolerate a lower dollar to repair the nation's trade performance.

But foreign exchange traders said the effort came too late to check the dollar's slide to 10-month lows against the yen, and one dealer predicted the dollar would test 120 yen next week.

Commerce Secretary William Verity said in Washington that the dollar's current exchange value was fair, while in London, Treasury Undersecretary George Gould said the administration had no interest in seeing a weaker dollar.

The remarks appeared aimed at undoing the damage to the dollar caused earlier in the week when Martin Feldstein, a Bush adviser, said the currency needed to fall at least 20 per cent in the next three years if the United States was to balance its trade account.

Gould said Feldstein, former chief of Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers, has expressed this view for some time.

"I must emphasize that we, as a matter of policy, have no interest in seeing the dollar lower," he said.

In the past week, however, Feldstein has been joined by other influential economists, such as C. Fred Bergsten of the Institute for International Economics in Washington, who concurred

that the U.S. trade deficit will not shrink much under current conditions.

The officials' disavowal "comes too late to change sentiment," said a dealer with a big U.S. bank.

Since Wednesday, the dollar has tumbled from 125.73 yen to 122.85 at Friday's close in New York, and has lost more than five pence against the Deutsche mark to 1.7375.

The currency had slipped as low as 122.35 yen and 1.7310 marks in Europe, but edged slightly higher in New York as dealers squared their positions ahead of the weekend.

One dealer predicted that "the market will test 120 yen and 1.7250 marks next week." That would push the U.S. currency below its record low of 120.45 yen hit last Jan. 4.

On strictly technical considerations, the dollar has been oversold, said Tony Mathers, an official with Westpac Bank in London, but he said the market was feeling so negative about the dollar now that it was ignoring the charts.

The currency has been weighed down by a number of factors: Concern that President-elect George Bush would tolerate a lower dollar, doubts whether he

will be able to lower the U.S. budget deficit and worries that the U.S. economic expansion is winding down.

Economists, lawmakers see need to cut budget deficit

Meanwhile economists and lawmakers said that Bush must make his mark early on reducing the U.S. budget deficit or risk facing an economic crisis in the first year of his presidency.

Bush promised during his campaign to make reducing the budget deficit a top priority in his administration but provided few details on how he would cut the red ink.

Bush had been the choice of the business community but traders worry whether Bush would be able to deliver on his promise to reduce the deficit without raising taxes.

"Financial markets don't really

care about how to reduce the deficit, they just want to know the government is earnest in getting the deficit down," economist Murray Weidenbaum said in an interview.

"There are a lot of jittery people in the financial markets," he added. Weidenbaum, of Washington University in St. Louis, was formerly chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers.

Feldstein warned last week that interest rates could rise sharply if Bush failed to get grips with the deficit in his first six months in office.

Another economist said the markets would respond positively to the illusion of action early in the Bush presidency but would expect substance to follow.

At his first news conference, Bush renewed his oft-repeated campaign vow, "read my lips, no new taxes."

Democratic and Republican congressional leaders said this pledge could make his efforts at early compromise with Congress difficult.

"I don't know if any Democrat would join in a tax increase," Senator Bill Bradley, a New Jersey Democrat and key player in tax and budget talks said.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas said Bush's anti-tax stance may not include higher federal excise taxes on petrol, alcohol and tobacco or fees for government services.

The cornerstone of Bush's budget plan, the flexible freeze, would hold spending increases to the rate of inflation while increases in tax revenues brought on by economic growth would solve the deficit problem. He has also pledged to leave social security retirement payments untouched.

Riyadh denies rial devaluation

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia Saturday reconfirmed it had no plans to devalue its currency, dismissing speculation about such a move as baseless.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA), quoting an official source, denied Saudi Arabia was to blame for volatility in the international oil markets.

The source said Saudi Arabia maintained that the volatility re-

sulted from the failure of other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to adhere to production quotas agreed by the 13-member group.

The source was reacting to Reuters reports that Saudi production in October had risen above its OPEC quota of 4.3 million barrels per day and that financial markets were speculating on a

devaluation against the U.S. dollar to boost the domestic value of oil revenues.

Interest rates in the Saudi rial market fell in reaction to the SPA report ruling out a devaluation.

The agency quoted the source as saying Saudi Arabia wanted to set the record straight because the reports and speculation were harming its economic interests.

Norway quells crown rumours

OSLO (R) — Norwegian Finance Minister Gunnar Berge has quashed rumours that Oslo intends to devalue the crown — a rumour that was partly responsible for depressing the nation's currency last week.

"That is ridiculous and absolutely not the case," Berge told the daily Stavanger Aftenbladet Saturday.

State television reported the central bank bought five billion crowns (\$760 million) in currency

intervention Friday to bolster the currency. It gave no sources for its report.

Foreign exchange dealers told Reuters Friday the crown had fallen sharply in a trade-weighted basket of 14 currencies and the central bank had bought large amounts of crowns with other currencies.

They said the crown's fall was partly because of problems within Norway's oil-based economy but there had also been rumours of a

devaluation.

Norway last devalued the crown in the spring of 1986 — by 12 per cent — when a collapse in the price for its North Sea oil threatened to create a major economic recession.

Labour Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland said there would be only one devaluation and Norway would subsequently solve its economic problems by other means.

Ethiopia pushes investment reform

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — The ruling Marxist Workers' Party of Ethiopia has lifted one million birr (\$250,000) ceiling previously imposed on private investment as one of the moves to revive the country's sluggish economy.

The party's Central Committee Friday announced the decision after five days of debate, including discussions of a lengthy report by President Mengistu Haile Mariam presented.

The 302-page report, which took Mengistu four hours to read Monday, painted a gloomy picture of the country's Soviet-style and centrally-controlled economy.

The committee's resolution to abolish the investment ceiling, singled out agriculture and livestock development as areas private investment might be directed into.

Mengistu, in his Monday

speech however, included hotels and industry as areas where private investors could participate, jointly with the government.

"Although this may be new to us, socialist countries have launched joint ventures which have proved successful," he said.

The committee also urged the government's Central Planning Authority to come up with proposals of the future role of the private sector in the economy. It also called for a clear indication of the products to be handled by the private sector in the country's retail trade, currently a state monopoly.

The committee expressed the need for establishing heavy industries in order to reduce the country's dependence on foreign suppliers for machinery and spare parts.

However, the committee noted that agriculture remained the country's economic base, and said state farms and cooperatives

needed increased financial support and managerial training for their employees.

Mengistu's report enumerated Ethiopia's problems and urged self-reliance.

He said agriculture, which provides 65 per cent of the country's gross domestic product and 90 per cent of employment, had maintained a 0.4 per cent negative growth rate in the past four years.

Ethiopia's military spending, Mengistu said, had increased by an annual average of 19 per cent since the military ousted emperor Haile Selassie 14 years ago, and was expected to consume 30 per cent of this year's three billion birr (\$1.2 billion) budget.

Mengistu also said Ethiopia could no longer expect "large scale assistance" from socialist countries because "they are now engaged in a reconstruction of their own."

Soviet worker assails officials' privileges

MOSCOW (R) — Top people in the Soviet Union get their favourite cars on the cheap, a worker at the Gorky factory which makes the sleek black Chaika limousine complained Friday.

In an outburst of proletarian anger at official privilege, fitter S. Barabashin said production costs of each of the 150 Chaikas the Volga River factory assembles a year were 34,000 roubles, or \$54,400.

But they were sold — largely to ministers, Communist Party and state organisations — at an official price of only 28,000 roubles

(\$44,800). Barabashin said in an article in the daily Socialist Industry.

"As a result, our factory which is supposed to be self-financing loses one million roubles (\$1.6 million) a year, which we have to pay out of our pockets," he added.

"This has been going on for decades. Earlier, we kept quiet about it, but we can't any longer. We have to count every kopek, but at the same time the plant is throwing a million roubles into the wind every year. Where is the justice?"

Barabashin said he kept a close

watch on the Chaikas in Gorky and more often than not their passengers were "ladies, elderly people or youths, probably relatives of highly-placed persons who are themselves at work."

"I can foresee the reaction from the owners of personal Chaikas — 'my car is for representational purposes'. That may be the case, and perhaps top leaders need their own transport. Maybe they even need a private aeroplane," he said.

"But I am not prepared to pay for what I am sure is yet another unnecessary luxury for them out of my own pocket," he added.

Japan set to take strong role on Third World debt

TOKYO (R) — The next American president have to deal with a more forceful Japan on the thorny problem of Third World debt.

Senior Japanese officials and bankers have made clear that they do not believe a U.S. plan to help debt-ridden developing nations is working.

"We see the situation as very serious," said Koji Kashiwaya, deputy director general at the finance ministry.

Washington can ill afford to ignore Tokyo's advice on the debt question because Japan is the world's biggest creditor.

As such, it is increasingly being put on the spot by developing nations looking for money to solve their economic problems.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The U.S. plan, fashioned by former U.S. treasury secretary James Baker, calls for leading nations, multilateral organisations and banks to lend more money to indebted countries which put their economies in order.

According to Japanese officials, the plan's Achilles heel is the failure of commercial banks to come up with extra money for deserving nations.

Bank of Tokyo Chairman Yuzuke Kashiwaya told foreign journalists last month that Japanese banks will refuse to give

any more money to the debt-ridden Third World unless major nations act to make those loans more attractive.

"Without some credit enhancement, how can you get private banks to lend more money?" Kashiwaya asked. "I am furious about the matter."

Multilateral development banks have also been slow in extending new money to the Third World, Kashiwaya said.

"We definitely need the support of other donor countries to help fill the gap caused by private banks and multilateral development banks," Kashiwaya told Reuters in an interview.

Japan's answer to the problem is the so-called Miyazawa initiative, named after Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. It calls for developing countries to swap bonds for some of their commercial bank debt on a one-for-one basis.

The interest rate on the bonds would be guaranteed by a trust fund made up of developing nations' foreign currency reserves and administered by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Contrary to expectations, however, Japan played down the proposal at the recent IMF/World Bank annual meeting in West Berlin.

Kashiwaya said Japan decided against trumpeting its proposal in West Berlin for fear this would foster jealousy of its growing eco-

nomie power and antagonism toward the plan itself.

Some delegates speculated U.S. opposition to the Japanese idea also played a part in Tokyo's decision not to push it more strongly, though Kashiwaya said such opposition was not so certain.

In what some in West Berlin saw as a swipe at the Japanese proposal, U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady warned against any plans for solving the Third World debt crisis by transferring risk from private banks to governments.

"Such a bail-out argument is nonsense," Kashiwaya said.

By allowing U.S. banks to write off some of the developing country debt to them against taxes, the Reagan administration is already providing the banks with some sort of debt relief at the expense of the public sector. "That is also a bail-out," Kashiwaya said.

But he was equally dismissive of Democratic Party proposals to allow developing countries to write off some of their debt.

Miyazawa said that would provide the debtor nations with short-term relief. It was not a long-term solution, however, because it would only serve to discourage commercial banks from any future lending.

The Miyazawa initiative would not do that, he said.

Bahrain may privatise industries

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain is considering plans to transfer some of its government-owned industries to the private sector, finance ministry undersecretary Isa Borshaid said in remarks published Saturday.

"The matter needs more

study... which includes taking domestic economic circumstances into consideration," the Arabic weekly Al Adhwa quoted him as saying.

"When there is a good investment opportunity, the private sector will not hesitate to contri-

bute," Borshaid added, but gave no further details.

Industry sources said the government hoped to float some or all of its stake in light industries such as Bahrain Aluminium Extrusion Co. which makes window and door frames.

Time plans expansion to survive wave of media consolidations

NEW YORK (AP) — Time Inc. hopes to enlarge its already substantial entertainment and television operations and plans to expand aggressively outside the United States to assure its place among the global media giants in the mid-1990s.

J. Richard Munro, chairman and chief executive, and N.J. Nicholas, president, told financial analysts that potential acquisitions or partnerships could include movie or programming production companies, television networks, cable operations or publishing concerns.

They refused to be more specific.

Media analyst Peter Appert of C.J. Lawrence Morgan Grenfell said Time appeared to be "laying out their plans for us, but I don't sense that anything is in fact imminent."

Munro said recent foreign takeovers of big U.S. media companies indicate foreigners "are playing a worldwide game" that Americans must join or find themselves in second place.

Among recent buyouts were Australian-based News Corp.'s \$3 billion acquisition of Triangle Publications and British publisher Robert Maxwell's \$2.6 billion purchase of MacMillan Inc.

Munro said that by the mid-1990s, the media and entertainment industry would be comprised of a limited number of global giants.

"Some will be European, some Asian, the rest American... Time Inc. intends to be one of these companies," he said.

Nicholas said Time was looking for companies with a high return or, absent that, a major strategic benefit for Time.

Munro said the dollar's decline has helped foreign companies bid successfully for U.S. media concerns. He said regulatory changes

over the next three years that will permit television networks to own cable systems and to own and syndicate their own productions also should encourage consolidation.

"Every player in the media-entertainment business will be trying to do the same thing: To build enterprises that can lay off the risk of increased production costs over as many worldwide distribution systems as possible," he said.

Time, the biggest U.S. magazine publisher, already has an interest in Cable Television through its 80 per cent ownership of American Television and Communications Corp., the nation's second-largest cable operator. It is involved in programming through its Home Box Office Inc., the pay television network.

Time reportedly was in failed merger talks earlier this year with Warner Communications Inc., the entertainment giant with interests in film making and cable operations.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday Nov. 12, 1988 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	458.0	460.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	372.5	374.4
Pound Sterling	829.5	833.6	Dutch guilder	224.0	225.2
Deutsche mark	263.7	265.0	Swedish crown	75.6	76.0
Swiss franc	313.8	315.4	Italian lira (for 100)	35.3	35.5
French franc	77.3	77.6	Belgian franc (for 10)	125.7	126.3

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Nov. 12, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	597886	JD 1036288	722
Top three companies:			
Arab Bank Limited	830	JD 118283	44
The National Financial Investment	45900	JD 107436	11
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	41700	JD 58106	38
Parallel market:	17469	JD 11619	—
Development bonds:	2485	JD 25509	—

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	663191	Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation	603507
Ministry of Supply	602121	Free Zones Corporation	642001
Ministry of Finance	636321	Amman Financial Market	600170
Ministry of Planning	644460	Amman Chamber of Commerce	666151
Ministry of Labour	663186	Amman Chamber of Industry	644747
Ministry of Communications	647391	Association of Banks in Jordan	662258
Ministry of Agriculture	639391	Jordan Association of Insurance Companies	647370
Income Tax Department	660151	General Statistics Department	646171
Central Bank of Jordan	630301	Jordanian Businessmen Association	600651
Amman Customs Department	772181		
Social Security Corporation	643000		
Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation	721194		

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PUBLIC INVITATION

On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, the Department of Antiquities has the pleasure to invite all citizens, residents and their guests to visit national museums and sites including Petra and Jerash free of charge on this happy day, 14 November 1988.

MAID WANTED

A maid for a small family in Amman is wanted.
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Cinema Tel: 625153
RAINBOW
VAN NUYS BLVD.
Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675571
NIJOUN
THE LOST BOYS
Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 671420
PLAZA
CAN'T BUY ME LOVE
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Navratilova, Maleeva move to semifinals

CHICAGO (R) — Top seed Martina Navratilova avenged her U.S. Open loss to Zina Garrison by defeating the seventh seed in the quarter-finals of the \$250,000 Chicago Tennis Tournament Friday night. Navratilova, the defending champion, needed just 61 minutes to oust the ninth-ranked Garrison 6-3, 6-3 and set up a semifinal against fifth seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia. Earlier, fourth seed Marnie Maleeva of Bulgaria disposed of 18-year-old American Ann Grossman 6-2, 6-1 in 57 minutes. Maleeva will face second-seeded Chris Evert in the other semifinal Saturday.

U.S. vs. Paraguay in Davis Cup

NEW YORK (AP) — The United States and Paraguay will play their 1989 first-round Davis Cup match at Fort Myers, Florida, the U.S. Tennis Association announced Friday. The best-of-five series, to be played Feb. 3-5, will mark the United States' reappearance in world group competition after a one-year relegation to the American zone. The United States advanced into the world group by defeating Peru and Argentina this year, thereby gaining the zonal title. Representing the Americans this year were Andre Agassi, John McEnroe, Jay Berger and Olympic doubles gold medalists Ken Flach and Robert Seguso. It will be only the second time a Davis Cup match has been played in Florida. In 1954, the United States defeated Cuba at St. Petersburg, Florida. This will be the second Davis Cup meeting between the two nations, Paraguay upsetting the United States 3-2 in a controversial match played in Paraguay in 1987.

2 Belgians sentenced

MONACO (AP) — Two Belgian supporters of the soccer club FC Bruges were sentenced Friday to three months in jail for violence during the European champion match Nov. 9 between Monaco and Bruges, the French news agency Agence-France Presse reported Saturday. Marc Bruynickx, 24, and Peter Vinck, 25, were found guilty of setting fire to publicity banners during the match at Monaco's Louis II stadium. No injuries were reported. Police and firemen turned heavy-duty hoses on a group of Belgian supporters to disperse the group and extinguish the fire. In addition to the three month jail term, the two men were fined \$25 each by the Monaco court.

Commercial team wins Championship

MOSCOW (AP) — Dnieper of Dnepropetrovsk became the first commercially run Soviet soccer team to win the Soviet National Championship Friday night with a 3-1 victory over the Lithuanian team Zalgiris. Taking advantage of economic opportunities created under President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Dnieper three years ago severed ties with the trade union that had run it for decades and set up its own self-financing plan.

Chievous bound for basketball stardom

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Rockets rookie Derrick Chievous is being touted for stardom with just four NBA games under his belt.

In the Rockets' 106-99 victory over the Utah Jazz Thursday night, Chievous came off the bench to score 27 points in 35 minutes while replacing starting small forward Bob Johnson.

"The guy's fantastic," Houston coach Don Chaney said. "He wanted the ball badly. He reminds me of John Havlicek. Things happen for him and he's still maturing. Without a doubt, he's going to be a star."

In Thursday's only other game, Denver beat Portland 135-115. Chievous, the Rockets' first-round pick from Missouri last year, seems to exude confidence both on and off the court.

"My background makes me good enough for this league," Chievous said. "I played against guys who should be here. I'm here so I must be in the same class as the other NBA players."

Houston center Akeem Olajuwon, who led the 2-2 Rockets with 35 points, 19 rebounds and five steals, also is a believer in Chievous.

"He can get it done because he's sure of his game and he can deliver," Olajuwon said. "Definitely, he will be a star in the NBA."

The effect of Chievous in a 19-6 run by Houston in the second half wasn't lost on Karl Malone of the Jazz, who scored 25 points along with 10 rebounds.

"Akeem and Chievous took over the game," Malone said. "They ran their offense well down the stretch and came back after we were up 81-71."

The victory was especially nice for Chaney, trying to mesh Chievous and seven other new players. The downside of that adjustment had been second-half collapses in two games.

"We picked it up toward the end, unlike some other games this year," Chaney said. "It's important for our bench to be capable of contributing. We played like we wanted to win."

The game was especially physical as both Malone and Utah center Mark Eaton fouled out. That was the tonic Olajuwon needed to take over as he poured in 17 points in the fourth quarter.

Nuggets 135, Trail Blazers 115

Michael Adams scored 29 points as Portland lost in Denver for the 12th consecutive time over five years.

Adams made 10 of 20 shots and five of five free throws. He made four 3-pointers and has made at least one in an NBA-record 47 consecutive games.

"We gave Adams some of his threes because we just lost him and didn't pick him up quickly enough," Portland's Mike Schuler said.

"We talked about staying on him, but you relax a second and you're off a step and all of a sudden it's in the basket."

Portland never let up but pulled to within four points early in the third quarter. Terry Porter scored two consecutive baskets to open the fourth quarter and pull the Trail Blazers to within 96-90, but Denver then went on an 11-4 run.

Alex English scored 30 points for Denver. Clyde Drexler led Portland with 32 points.

Jordan to host int'l bridge championship

AS A PART of the celebrations of the Kingdom on the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Hussein, the Jordanian Bridge Association will organize the Amman seventh international bridge festival during the period 15-20 November, 1988. Bridge champions from sister and friendly countries such as Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Greece and France in addition to about 100 male and female champions from the Jordanian Bridge Association will participate.

Championship contests will be held at the Intercontinental Hotel, Amman with support from International Traders and Pepsi-Cola. The festival will include open pairs, mixed pairs and open teams contests. Prizes will be given on the last day of the festival during the gala dinner.

The management of the association has as well organized for the guests intensive sightseeing programmes of the tourist places of Jordan. The Jordanian Bridge Association hereby appeals to all bridge players and admirers in Jordan to take part in this championship and participate towards making it a success and in the best possible manner so as to reflect the ever honourable and bright picture of Jordan.

It is a well known fact that bridge is an intellectual sport the same as chess and needs extensive concentration as it depends on plans which require concentrated meditation and constant reading of books about the rules and plans of this game. It is worthwhile mentioning on this occasion that some foreign developed countries teach bridge in schools in view of its effect in developing the brains of children and enlightening them at an early stage — Jordan Bridge Association press release.

McEnroe tumbles out of Stuttgart Classic

STUTTGART, West Germany (R) — John McEnroe clashed disastrously with the referee as he lost 5-7, 7-6 (7-1), 6-3 to Olympic champion Miloslav Mecir in their Stuttgart Classic Tennis Tournament semifinal Saturday.

The 29-year-old American walked off court and refused to play for three minutes in the first set after British referee George Grime hit him with a one-point penalty for slamming his racket on the floor when he was 5-3 up and at set point.

Though he lost the game, McEnroe fought back to take the set 7-5. But the incident upset his composure and the Czechoslovak took the next two sets.

Grime earlier warned the world number 14 in the third game after he shouted at a linesman who foot-faulted him.

When the point was taken away later, McEnroe walked to his seat at the side of the court and sat there arguing with Grime and with tournament officials as the 7,000-crowd whistled and slow-handclapped.

"After that whole incident I lost the feeling of enjoying the match totally. I lost my spirit," he said afterwards.

"It stopped being pleasure and



John McEnroe

turned into business — like a nine to five job I had been doing for 12 years."

"One of the main things I am trying to do at the moment is enjoy my tennis... I got mentally and physically tired easily after that."

Senna takes pole for Australian Grand Prix

ADELAIDE (R) — Ayrton Senna confirmed his right to hold the formula one crown by taking pole position for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix in the dying minutes of the final qualifying session Saturday.

Brazilian world champion-elect Senna and French teammate Alain Prost scorched around the streets of Adelaide trading fastest lap times, but it was Senna who clinched the number one spot with one minute 17.748 seconds.

"Here at Adelaide, pole position is not really an advantage because it is on the dirty side of the circuit," Senna said referring to the pole being off the best and cleanest driving line.

Senna's time was the second fastest ever recorded on the tortuous 3.78 kilometre circuit and was less than half a second behind last year's record one minute 17.267 second qualifier, set by 1987's winner Gerhard Berger.

Prost, who was unlucky with the traffic, said: "The main problem for me today was brakes. We changed the discs after the morning session and I was much less confident."

In temperatures reaching 35 degrees Celsius, the Honda turbo-powered McLarens of Senna and Prost took the first two places on the grid ahead of Britain's Nigel Mansell in his non-turbo judo-engineered Williams, though he failed to better his time from Friday's first session.

Mansell's team-mate Ricardo

Patrese dropped two places to sixth position on the grid, behind reigning world champion Nelson Piquet's Lotus who improved on Friday's eighth position.

Austrian Berger drove his Ferrari one spot higher to fourth, trimming more than half a second from Friday's time.

The thrilling close to the qualifier followed a spectacular crash 40 minutes into the hour-long session. The track was closed and practice suspended as officials cleared the wreckage of Italian Alessandro Nannini.

"I spun in the middle of what looked like being my best lap," Nannini said. "I touched a kerb at the exit of a corner and, since I was right on the limit, I lost control."

Nannini was uninjured and

took his spare car out, but could not improve on his earlier times, which gave him eighth spot on the grid. However, he again spun, but this time without damage.

Four drivers failed to qualify for Sunday's Grand Prix, for which there are a maximum of 26 places on the grid.

One of those to miss out was

Frenchman Pierre-Henri Raphanel who failed to get his Lola into what would have been his first formula one event.

The 27-year-old formula 3000 competitor took the drive of Yannick Dalmas who is ill with a chest infection linked to a mild form of legionnaires disease, his team said.

Tyson, Givens fail to meet face-to-face

NEW YORK (AP) — Heavyweight champion Mike Tyson and his actress-wife Robin Givens failed to reach a divorce agreement in a Las Vegas meeting last weekend, but a split of the couple's finances should be finalized this month, her lawyer said Friday.

The Tyson-Givens get-together prior to the Sugar Ray Leonard-Donny Lalonde fight was the last face-to-face meeting the couple will have before the divorce goes through, promised attorney Raoul Lionel Felder.

"There's no point to it (another meeting)," said Felder. "The next step now is the figures, which the lawyers will go over. It should be finished in a week to 10 days."

Felder said "not too much" was accomplished at Saturday's meeting between the couple, whose relationship has been tabloid fodder for the past year. They were wed in February, and Givens filed for divorce after eight stormy months of marriage.

The attorney also denied a published report that Givens came to Las Vegas and asked the

undefeated heavyweight for a reconciliation.

"That's straight out of fantasy world. She wasn't pleading for a rematch. In fact, Mike called her yesterday and asked her to come to New York," said Felder.

Givens intends to keep her pledge not to ask for any of Tyson's money, said Felder, who blamed the delay on reaching a settlement on problems in figuring out how much in their joint accounts belonged to each.



Mike Tyson Robin Givens

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

MORE ABOUT CONTROL

Neither vulnerable. South deals. NORTH ♠ 10 7 ♥ A 8 6 4 3 ♦ J 5 2 ♣ A 3 2. EAST ♠ J 9 6 5 3 ♥ Q J 7 ♦ Q J 7 ♣ K 10 5. SOUTH ♠ A 8 4 2 ♥ A K 9 5 ♦ Q 3 ♣ 7 6. The bidding: South West North East 1 ♠ 2 ♥ 3 ♦ 4 ♠ Pass. Opening lead: King of ♠. Some players consider it a personal insult if their opponents win a trick. As declarer, there is no harm in letting the defenders take their share of tricks—providing, of course, you are not in grand slam. In standard methods, North would have no good bid after West's overall. Fortunately, his side was playing "negative" doubles, where the double of an overall

shows a limited hand and is for takeout, not penalties. However, his subsequent jump to four hearts was rather aggressive; he had little in reserve over what he had already shown with his double.

West cashed his two top diamonds and continued with a third round of the suit. When East ruffed with the queen, declarer overruffed and cashed his other high trump. Then he started on spades in the hope that the suit would split evenly; that would allow him to discard dummy's two club losers, thus holding his losers to three red-suit tricks. That was not to be, so the result was down one.

The contract would have been easy to make if declarer had been prepared to "render unto Caesar" that which is Caesar's. His decision to overruff at trick three not only gained nothing, it actually cost a trick.

See what happens if, instead, declarer simply allows East to score his queen of trumps while he discards his club loser—a trick which he would have to concede anyway. Declarer can win any return and, when trumps now fall in two rounds, he can claim the rest of the tricks.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1988

YOUR HOROSCOPE

As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The elderly are in focus today. Parents and family members are reflected on, as are the homeless and needy. These separated from loved ones may feel homesick. Offer assistance to those lonely or in need.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Rekindle a restless spirit of adventure. Expand your talents and skills by gaining new knowledge. Look into areas not yet explored.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Social gatherings and public meetings provide places to meet people. Start early to avoid traffic. Catch up on correspondence.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Your active mind and restless nature need stimulation. Boredom goes against your grain. Rekindle old projects that were shelved.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) If the weather permits, outside activities would be a fresh change. Believe tensions at home by compromising. Be considerate.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Moodiness and emotional upsets occur when a compromise fails. Finish projects and chores. It would be wise to listen to others today.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your approach to the day is slow. Energy

comes in spurts. Use your creative skills around the house. Shopping may be disappointing today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Children will enjoy spending time with you today. You are warm and generous and want to be on the go. Give attention to a hobby.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Listen to your intuition. Try a fresh approach to the day. Nature inspires you. You may be on the go more than you would like.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Lowered energy and mental strain make the morning drag. Later your blood gets circulating, and others find it hard to keep up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Romantic interest blooms. Your plans for the day are interrupted. Try not to take changes too seriously, and go with the flow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) People around you may be touchy. Say the right thing, be direct and don't beat around the bush. Plan for a favorite activity.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You get the silent treatment from someone close. Go about your business with plans for home improvement, running errands and shopping.

THE Daily Crossword by Donald B. Groat

ACROSS

- Concern of geriatrics
- Cruces
- Hemiplegic aphasia
- One who classifies
- Night insect
- Laid or Aida
- Diminutive prefix
- Regarding
- Skirt feature
- Shakespeare play
- Stopover
- Luminary
- Kind of wagon
- Wild oath
- Knight's weapon
- Allen vehicle?
- Ir. island
- Web. city
- Shakespeare play
- Council city
- Polishes
- Courtesy abbr.
- Passover feast
- Flying prefix
- Go to — (deteriorate)
- Infirmary
- Rein
- Shakespeare play
- El —
- Formal act
- Composer
- Horace or Nerile
- Hab. month
- Ham it up
- Obstacle
- Time zone letters
- Weeds

DOWN

- Prepare for action
- Pace
- Restless
- Sea nymph
- Fully developed
- "Paradise —"
- Carlyle
- Lacking funds
- Deft offering
- brave
- Bucket
- Money in the pot
- Homosapiens
- Vedic god
- Parlor
- Rifle stocks
- Burning
- Indifferent
- Was a candidate
- Watts or
- Previn
- Mother-of-pearl
- Trough
- Alleviated
- Off the path
- Accurate
- Capek play
- Gr. weights
- Diagram pests
- Diagram
- Flexible band
- Loose tip
- Emotors
- Verre
- Adress Foch
- Coup d' —
- Poetic word
- Scand. god
- Malice
- Legal point

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

SPAD APALPA SOAM
MIRA FOSSIE PALE
RICK DUBIE NOBE
SICRCA WILLOOAN
ADOT EDED
ARRROOES RAGAGE
ATROP ANDRE BER
GONG ABENT SOPI
NIO ARVAT THREE
SICRCS TRETTRETS
ONES ROOT
SANDRIA WILLOVE
EJLD AGRIHA AGAL
JALD TALNT DELL
DEED ERATIN DELE

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"His snoring is getting worse. Last night he inhaled his pillow, the clock radio, and the paint off the ceiling!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PORDO

THECK

UCCSAU

CEETIN

SOME PEOPLE THINK THAT A KID WITH TOO MUCH SPUNK MIGHT BENEFIT FROM A LITTLE OF THIS.

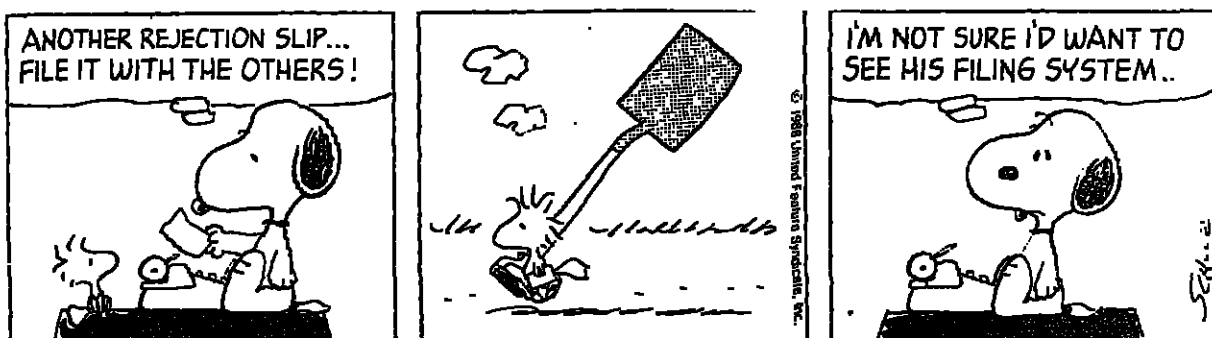
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLOUT WAGER UNPACK CALICO
Answer: Ignorance of the law is no excuse, especially if you're this — A KNOW-IT-ALL

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Estonians pursue sovereignty

MOSCOW (Agencies) — An emergency parliamentary session in the Soviet Republic of Estonia is to be urged to "declare the sovereignty of the Estonian people" and demand a veto right on Soviet legislation, sources in the republic said Saturday.

The agenda for Wednesday's session, drawn up by a constitutional commission under Estonian President Arnold Ruutel, also calls on deputies to reject controversial changes planned by the Kremlin to the Soviet constitution.

The agenda's contents were disclosed by a member of the commission, Edgar Savisaar, during a discussion programme on Estonian television Friday night.

the sources, quoted by Reuters, said.

Savisaar spoke only hours after Viktor Chebrikov, a member of the ruling Soviet Politburo, warned Estonians not to go too far in their independence drive.

"You can achieve sovereignty but you can lose everything else," Chebrikov warned factory workers in the Estonian capital Tallinn, in a speech broadcast on the republic's radio. "You cannot de-

part from the reality that has arisen around us."

Chebrikov, a former head of the KGB security police who since September has headed a new Communist Party Legal Affairs Commission, was sent to Estonia in response to mass unrest over the Kremlin's draft proposals that Estonians fear would tighten control by Moscow.

Savisaar, who is a leading member of the republic's powerful popular front mass movement, said:

Lithuanian radio reported Silyunkov faced protest pickets sparked off by the "evident shortcomings" of the planned changes when he arrived in the Lithuanian

capital, Vilnius.

The Estonian popular front and sister movements in the other two republics have emerged as powerful forces in recent months demanding more autonomy for the republics, independent until they were absorbed into the Soviet Union in 1940.

Moscow moves

Late Friday, however, the Central Committee announced it would hold a special plenary meeting in mid-1989 to overhaul party policy on dealing with the country's more than 100 ethnic groups.

Gorbachev first spoke in

February of holding such a plenum after Armenia and Azerbaijan, two Soviet republics in the Caucasus, split over a territorial dispute.

The meeting will seek to delineate more precisely the responsibilities of the Moscow government from those of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the other Soviet republics, the Central Committee said in a resolution carried by TASS.

"The task of perfecting relations among nationalities is acquiring special importance and urgency," the Central Committee said.

The agenda is only provisional and a lot may change by Wednesday.

Sri Lankan strike causes food shortages

COLOMBO (AP) — Towns in the Sinhalese heartland faced serious food shortages Saturday because of a strike by fuel workers, a government official said, as workers defied a decree threatening severe strikers with the death penalty.

About 2,500 employees of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, the island nation's only supplier of gasoline, walked off the job Monday in response to a four-day strike called by the People's Liberation Front. The Sinhalese extremist group is demanding the resignation of President Junius R. Jayewardene.

Many of the fuel workers were still not back on duty by Saturday, despite an emergency decree issued by Jayewardene Friday providing for death by hanging for strike instigators and those refusing to report for work in "essential services" sectors, such as fuel and transportation.

Jayewardene Saturday appealed to people to refrain from supporting anti-government extremists.

"The recent disturbances have had adverse effects on economic and development plans of the country," he said, while presiding over the opening of a new terminal at Colombo's international airport, 25 kilometres north of the capital, near the village of Katunayake.

Sufficient food has been sent to the southern port town of

Galle, but gasoline shortages have prevented distribution to other towns in the region, food commissioner Graham Disanayake said Saturday.

Senior officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the government intended the emergency decree as a deterrent and hoped it would not be necessary to resort to capital punishment to stop strikes.

P.M. Hamza, general manager of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, said the decree applied to his workers, since the corporation had been declared essential.

He said "a large number" of his employees had returned to work, and he expected others to report shortly, although he could not give any figures.

The decree was issued as businesses reopened following the four-day strike. It was the second tough measure introduced in a week, in an effort to halt anti-government protests.

On Wednesday, the army was given orders to shoot on sight at anti-government demonstrators. On Thursday, soldiers opened fire on thousands of such protesters, killing at least 18 in three southern towns.

The strikes were the latest in a series called by the People's Liberation Front, which the government blames for the assassinations of 550 government officials and supporters in the last 15 months.

Polish police quell anniversary march

WARSAW (R) — Riot police beat marchers with batons and used water cannon to break up an anti-communist march by about 5,000 people in the Polish port of Gdansk late Friday, opposition sources said.

Police dispersed rallies on the 70th anniversary of Poland's independence in the western city of Poznan and in Katowice in the south and at least one woman was taken to hospital, the sources said.

About 15,000 people marched unhindered through Warsaw chanting anti-government slogans and singing freedom songs carrying banners supporting the banned Solidarity trade union. Police prevented a later march by about 1,000 youths.

Marches and rallies elsewhere, including gatherings of 10,000 in the southern cities of Krakow and Wroclaw, passed off peacefully, the sources said.

In Gdansk, where Solidarity was born amid strikes there in 1980, police wearing helmets and wielding long white batons moved in on the crowd after

youths threw stones at them. The official news agency PAP said the youths tore up paving stones, set fire to garbage bins and threw stones at police.

It did not say if the police had made any arrests or if anyone had been hurt.

The crowd marched after a mass at Saint Mary's Basilica Church on the anniversary of Poland's re-emergence as an independent state after 123 years of subjugation to Austria, Prussia and Russia.

In Katowice, police drove vans into a crowd of about 1,000 people to disperse a rally. One woman was hit by a police van and taken to hospital, Solidarity sources said.

Police also dispersed crowds in Poznan and there were some minor clashes, the opposition sources said. It was not clear if anyone was arrested or hurt.

In Warsaw, marchers chanted "We want Lech not Wojciech" in support of Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and against Poland's communist leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski.

Mystery surrounds Haiti colonel's death

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, one of Haiti's most powerful and feared army commanders, reportedly once boasted that for \$100, "I can have anyone I want bumped off."

Paul died Sunday after drinking a bowl of soup. Friends, police and medical sources suspect he was poisoned, but radio reports said he had a heart attack.

He was buried Thursday outside his modest home on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. The coffin was buried face down because when foul play is suspected, Haitian voodoo customs say the death will be avenged within a week.

Political analysts say one hypothesis is that Paul's death was related to drug trafficking. Another theory was that he may have been knocked off for political reasons.

Paul had many enemies — and also many followers.

Known to pay out of own pockets to keep his men happy, the 29-year career army veteran could be generous.

"His handouts may have come from narcotics traffic but his men saw him as a father," said a well-known political analyst, who asked not to be identified.

In March, a Miami federal grand jury indicted Paul on three counts of drug conspiracy. The indictment said Paul used a private airstrip for drug runs. Efforts to bring him to trial were futile because the United States has no extradition treaty with Haiti.

But the charges put a damper on relations with the U.S. government, which has refused to resume \$70 million in aid suspended after an election-day massacre in November 1987. In a bid to renew the aid, the new government of Lieutenant General Prosper Avril forced Paul to retire in September.



People in Manila and other parts of the Philippines fled their flooded homes in the wake of Typhoon Skip's rampage

Philippine typhoon toll hits 670

MANILA (AP) — The Philippines death toll from three recent storms rose Friday to 670 as authorities feared up to 600 people were swept away by flooding and landslides on Palawan Island alone.

The Philippine Red Cross said reports reaching the capital indicated at least 75 people were killed by widespread flooding and landslides on the remote island, 400 kilometres southwest of Manila.

Red Cross official Lourdes Masang said the island was hit

hard by floods and mudslides triggered by rains from tropical storm Tess last weekend and by typhoon Skip early this week.

Before Tess and Skip, typhoon Ruby battered the country Oct. 24-25.

The Office of Civil Defence on Palawan Island said landslides and floods hit last Friday and Saturday.

"We heard about the floods Nov. 6, but it was not until yesterday that the reports of the deaths started coming," said Tito Larrosa, Palawan civil defence coordinator.

Palawan, known as the Philippines' "last frontier" because of its mountain and jungle cover, is isolated from the rest of the country with the exception of its provincial capital, Puerto Princesa.

Communications are virtually non-existent between towns on Palawan, and until Friday's reports, authorities had reported only 11 deaths from Tess.

Larrosa said among the hardest hit of Palawan's towns was Rizal, where 23 people were killed by mountain torrents of mud and water.

Controversy stirs over U.S. interference in Canada polls

OTTAWA (R) — President Reagan's decision to speak out next week in support of the proposed Canada-U.S. free trade agreement has touched off a controversy over U.S. interference in Canada's Nov. 21 federal election.

Although the speech could help Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's efforts to win a second term for his Conservative govern-

ment, opponents also say the move could backfire.

The Conservatives and opposition liberals, who have vowed to tear up the agreement if they are elected, are running neck-and-neck according to three recent opinion polls.

The trade agreement, the central issue in the campaign, is strongly supported by Reagan and the deal has already cleared

all legislative hurdles in the United States.

But it will only be implemented as scheduled Jan. 1 if the Mulroney government wins a majority.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Thursday that Reagan would come to the defence of the agreement as part of a major speech on international trade policy.

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The response was electric as supporters surged against the concrete podium in Faisalabad's Dhoobi Ghat public park, stretching out their hands in salute.

Officials repeatedly beat back the scrambling mass of humanity with bamboo staves.

She called Sharif, also an industrialist, a "murderer of labourers" and said late military President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq had paid between five and ten million rupees (\$270,000 to \$540,000) each to members of the last national assembly to ensure their loyalty to his administration.

"It's always the poor who get blamed. Nobody catches the drug smugglers and the thieves," she said.

Bhutto, daughter of executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, said in a brief interview after the rally that she welcomed Sharif's acceptance of her earlier challenge to debate the country's controversial nuclear programme.

However, she said the government would have to lift its ban on broadcasts of campaigning on the state-run radio and television before the debate could take place.

Bhutto told the rally in one of her fiercest attacks on the Islamic Democratic Alliance opposing her in the Nov. 16 elections.

"They are nothing compared to this giant crowd."

Pakistani journalists said her audience was 10 times bigger than one at a rally in the town Wednesday held by alliance mainstay and Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif.

In his speech, he announced he would write off 80 million rupees (\$4.4 million) in interest on government loans made to residents

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Bhutto draws huge crowds at rallies

FAISALABAD, Pakistan (R) — Benazir Bhutto has put on a powerful display of electoral strength, drawing massive crowds at emotional rallies on a final campaign push through central Pakistan.

Garlanded and showered with rose petals, Bhutto took the stage 11 hours late at a rally of more than 100,000 people at 1 a.m. Saturday (2000 GMT Friday) and drew a thunderous roar of approval with a wave of her hand.

The crowd at Faisalabad had waited in carnival mood as Bhutto's campaign cavalcade was mobbed by villagers and took 12 hours to cover the last 80 kilometres of her route through the wheat and sugarcane fields of Punjab province.

In one instance, frenzied farmworkers chanting "Bhutto lead us forever" lifted her white minivan off the road to stall its progress.

"Those pygmies can't beat us," Bhutto told the rally in one of her fiercest attacks on the Islamic Democratic Alliance opposing her in the Nov. 16 elections.

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Johns, Picasso get record prices

NEW YORK (R) — American Jasper Johns' painting "False Start" sold for \$17.05 million at auction Thursday, breaking a record set one day earlier by the same painter for a work by a living artist. Another record was shattered at Sotheby's auction house as Pablo Picasso's "La Cage d'Oiseaux" a 1923 cubist portrait of a bird cage fetched \$15.4 million, from an unidentified buyer after frantic bidding over the telephone. The previous high price paid for a Picasso work was \$7.57 million for "Souvenir du Havre" in 1987. Johns' "False Start", a large oil-on-canvas painted in 1959, was bought at Sotheby's auction house by New York dealer and gallery owner Larry Gagosian. Robert Rauschenberg's "Rebus", meanwhile sold for \$6.3 million, breaking a previous Rauschenberg record high of \$814,000 for "Black wash" in November 1987.

He said "a large number" of his employees had returned to work, and he expected others to report shortly, although he could not give any figures.

The decree was issued as businesses reopened following the four-day strike. It was the second tough measure introduced in a week, in an effort to halt anti-government protests.

On Wednesday, the army was given orders to shoot on sight at anti-government demonstrators. On Thursday, soldiers opened fire on thousands of such protesters, killing at least 18 in three southern towns.

The strikes were the latest in a series called by the People's Liberation Front, which the government blames for the assassinations of 550 government officials and supporters in the last 15 months.

Huge diamond fetches \$8.6 million

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian oil and mining company said Friday that a huge uncut diamond recently dug up in the west African country of Guinea fetched \$8.6 million this week. The price of the 181.77 carat stone equaled \$47,400 a carat, believed to be the highest price per carat ever paid for a rough, uncut diamond.

The price confirmed the exceptional quality of the stone, Bridge said. The diamond was sold by tender to a private syndicate that intends to cut and polish the stone.

13,000 couples wed by Moon

SEOUL (AP) — More than 13,000 brides and grooms in the Unification Church were married last Sunday in a mass wedding complete with matching bridegowns and bouquets, a day after the couples were introduced. The ceremony matched 6,516 couples, 4,000 of them Japanese marrying Japanese and the remainder marriages between people from the United States and more than a dozen other nations. Many couples did not speak the same language. The Reverend Sun Myung Moon, founder of the South Korean-based church, matched the couples personally, a church spokesman said, and purposely chose to unite more than 2,000 Japanese and Koreans "to heal and spiritually cleanse bad feelings left over from the Japanese colonial rule of Korea." In union, the grooms lifted the veils of the brides and the brides and grooms took identical gold rings from small silk pouches to place on each other's fingers. There was no kiss. The couples are counselled to live together 40 days without sharing the same bed.

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